

Flying in: one of six American B52 bombers to be stationed in Britain for raids on Iraq arriving at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire yesterday. Report, page 4

Land war looms as US sends top mission to Gulf

By PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON

PRESIDENT Bush is sending his defence secretary and military chief to Saudi Arabia later this week, increasing speculation that a decision is imminent on when to start a land war to liberate Kuwait.

Richard Cheney and General Colin Powell will meet General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, for a "status report" and then return quickly to brief the White House war council.

The visit will be the first top-level mission to the Gulf since the war began on January 17, and its announcement coincided with indications from British sources that the preparations for a ground and amphibious assault could begin soon.

The British sources said yesterday that the front-line Iraqi forces in southern Kuwait could soon be facing a different type of allied air attack with different weapons systems. Helicopters armed with anti-tank missiles were expected to be launched at the dug-out positions on a large scale soon.

British and American mine-sweepers are also expected to move forwards towards the Kuwaiti coast to start clearing mines soon. The 1st British

- Commanders' dilemma over ground war... 2
- Saudi troops open fire for the first time... 3
- French TV ignores war role of Britain... 4
- Sir Anthony Parsons on the UN's future... 12
- Diary: who's who in stopping the war... 12
- Letters: issuing gas masks to Palestinians... 13
- Gulf fall-out: who's afraid of flying?... 16

Armoured Division has meanwhile been put under the tactical command of an American armoured corps general rather than the US Marines, indicating a new mission for the British troops.

General Schwarzkopf's plans for the ground attack have changed significantly in recent weeks because of the expanded American and British presence and after assessments of Iraq's deployments and capabilities. The allied commander will discuss these changes in detail with Mr Cheney and General Powell, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff.

Mr Bush said he was looking forward to hearing the serious recommendations of the three men, but he hinted that a land war looked inevitable, saying he was "somewhat sceptical" about whether air power alone could drive President Saddam Hussein from Kuwait.

White House and Pentagon spokesmen said that the mission to the Gulf should not be construed that a ground war was imminent. But officials pointed to the pattern since the August invasion in which Mr Cheney's visits to Saudi



Cheney: going to Saudi Arabia later in the week

Iraq's transport faces paralysis as petrol is cut

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ was threatened yesterday with the complete collapse of its civilian transport system, after the government announced an indefinite halt to the sale of fuel. A statement said that starting today all sales of petrol, diesel, heating oil and kerosene would be stopped because of what it called "technical damage to oil installations".

Apart from the immediate effects of paralysing the civilian population, the announcement is also expected to mean that the limited water supplies, pumped by generators, could also come to a stop.

Motorists, who up to now have had to spend several hours queuing for their ration of eight gallons of petrol every fortnight, made a last rush to the pumps yesterday to beat the deadline. Although the Iraqi military is widely believed to have stored enough reserves to run its vehicles for months, it is unlikely that in a week's time there will be any privately owned vehicles on the street.

The last time the government imposed restrictions on the sale of fuel three months ago there was such an outcry that the then minister of oil was dismissed. It is not clear

what effect the latest decision will have on public morale.

Although foreign correspondents in Iraq are not allowed to identify any strategic sites that have been hit in allied attacks, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, confirmed in a letter to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, that oil refineries had been attacked. In a message critical of the UN's silence over the scale of allied bombing raids, Mr Aziz said that television and radio stations had been attacked, along with government offices, cement plants, irrigation systems, dams and trade and commercial centres. Up to January 26, he said, 108 civilians had been killed and 250 others injured during attacks on 37 towns.

Western reporters were taken to the scene of another allied bombardment yesterday, this time to the town of al-Dour. Scores of houses east of the town had been levelled during an attack on January 21. "We lost 24 people here and 100 injured," said Ismail Ayem Hassan, the local leader of the Popular Army, the Iraqi equivalent of the Home Guard. (This report has been subject to Iraqi military censorship).

INSIDE

South Africa sanctions plea

John Major and Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, agreed to work together in winning round other Commonwealth heads of government to the dismantling of sanctions against South Africa in response to President de Klerk's initiatives on ending apartheid. Page 20

Drug doubts

The cancer drug denied to a Manchester hospital patient because of its cost, has not been licensed for use in Britain or America because of safety doubts. Page 5

Cheaply as one

The recession is slowing the divorce rate as highly-mortgaged couples think twice about the financial strain of splitting up. Page 16

Red card

Cabra Estates has asked Chelsea Football Club to buy its Stamford Bridge ground in West London or "vacate the site". Page 21

Gooch willing

Graham Gooch said he was ready to carry on as England's captain after Australia's nine-wicket win had given them the series by 3-0. Page 36

INDEX	
Arts	17-18
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Classified	28-32
Court & social	16
Crosswords	15-20
Law Report	32
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Media	11
Obituaries	27-29
Property	14
TV & radio	19
Weather	20

New curbs on football hooligans

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE new offences to control violence and unruly behaviour at football matches would be created by a bill introduced in the Commons yesterday.

The football (offences) bill makes it an offence to throw missiles, chant obscene or racist abuse or invade the pitch at football grounds.

MPs on the cross-party Commons home affairs committee took the unprecedented step of producing the measure as a result of their enquiry into football hooliganism. The private members' bill introduces three of the four new offences recommended by Lord Justice Taylor in his report on the Hillsborough disaster, in which 95 spectators died.

The judge argued that specific offences would prove more of a deterrent than a catch-all offence of disorderly conduct at sports grounds, which had been recommended by Lord Popplewell after investigating the Bradford stadium disaster.

Although the government supports Lord Taylor's recom-

mendations, the legislation would be killed off by sustained objections in either House because of a shortage of parliamentary time. The committee MPs, however, believe that the bill could get through.

Sir John Wheeler, the committee chairman, said the new offences demanded by the police and football authorities will give police officers the necessary powers to control football violence more effectively.

Fall details, page 36

and Saddam's background. Finally the Iraqi authorities relented, and on January 12 he met Saddam.

The appointment was scheduled for ten minutes, but lasted about forty-five in a room guarded by six armed soldiers. Mr Brown said Saddam had an air of "truthfulness and frankness" and explained Iraq's position in a "propaganda-style of justification".

The monstrosity driver said he avoided taking any political positions, but conveyed his convictions about the deeper mood of Americans, his personal objections to President Bush's policies, and his hopes to establish a "homeland news network" to voice alternative views. "He had a certain air about him, but not like our preppy president," said Mr Brown. "He was like a common man."

US to axe Holy Loch and close airbases

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE United States is to close its nuclear submarine base at Holy Loch on the Clyde and withdraw American fighters from two RAF bases in Britain as part of long-term plans to create a more mobile fighting force.

The base on the Clyde, which houses 2,000 American servicemen and 1,600 dependants and employs 165 British people, is expected to shut next year. It is estimated that it contributes \$30 million to the local economy, where unemployment is running at 12 per cent.

Under the American defence department's proposals, US F111E and EF111 aircraft based at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire and F111F planes based at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk will be sent back to the United States. Tom King, the defence secretary, told the Commons yesterday that the aircraft would remain committed to Nato and would return to British bases if there were a war.

The F111Fs based at RAF Lakenheath would return to Upper Heyford for up to six weeks each year for exercises and training. Next year, Mr King told MPs, the US F15E

Continued on page 20, page 2

Rubber duck chews the fat with Saddam

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN AMMAN

WHEN Javier Pérez de Cuellar visited Baghdad on his last-ditch effort to avert war, he was kept waiting because the Iraqi leader was in a meeting with a lorry driver called William Brown.

President Saddam Hussein's meeting with Mr Brown, a burly 40-year-old from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was the climax of an odyssey which began when the trucker was driving a load across America last August.

While listening to local radio phone-in programmes as he passed through each state, Mr Brown was struck by the gulf between politicians' statements on the need to liberate Kuwait, and common people's concern about a large-scale war.

"These people were talking and no

one was hearing," said Mr Brown. Standing 6ft 2ins and possessing a handshake like a grizzly bear, he is no stranger to war, having fought as a marine in Vietnam before receiving a medical discharge in 1971.

His antipathy to the path Washington was following persuaded him to travel to Baghdad to tell Saddam that Americans were not warmongers and had no enmity for the Iraqi people. He told his boss he was taking indefinite unpaid leave, and bade farewell to his son, two daughters, and wife, who has taken on two jobs to support the family in his absence.

The Iraqi embassy in Washington did not provide a visa, but after two weeks Mr Brown went on to Amman without one. In Jordan, he waited another two months and 19 days, using the time to study Arab history

and Saddam's background. Finally the Iraqi authorities relented, and on January 12 he met Saddam.

The appointment was scheduled for ten minutes, but lasted about forty-five in a room guarded by six armed soldiers. Mr Brown said Saddam had an air of "truthfulness and frankness" and explained Iraq's position in a "propaganda-style of justification".

The monstrosity driver said he avoided taking any political positions, but conveyed his convictions about the deeper mood of Americans, his personal objections to President Bush's policies, and his hopes to establish a "homeland news network" to voice alternative views. "He had a certain air about him, but not like our preppy president," said Mr Brown. "He was like a common man."

Bush backs Gorbachev as Baltic fears grow

By SUSAN ELLICOTT AND MARY DEJEVSKY

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday firmly backed Mikhail Gorbachev and expressed his confidence that the Soviet Union would never again be a totalitarian society, even as Mr Gorbachev outlawed Lithuania's poll on independence and fears grew in all three Baltic republics of the imposition of presidential rule.

Mr Bush said clampdowns by Moscow troubled him and he emphasised that his willingness to maintain contacts with the Kremlin did not undercut his wish to see the Baltic republics "fulfil their destiny".

"It's a very troubling situation inside the Soviet Union right now," Mr Bush said. But the country would "never go back, whatever happens" to a closed society. He would continue to deal with Mr Gorbachev, whom he described as "still in charge".

The Lithuanian president, Vytautas Landsbergis, reacted angrily last night to the Soviet leader's decree. He said that it "reflects an old tradition of the Soviet Union, according to which law and government arise not from the will of the people expressed by free vote, but are formed by the decrees of autocratic rulers". In a presidential decree, issued when voting in the Baltic republic was already under way, Mr Gorbachev said that the exercise was "without legal foundation".

The decree did not indicate whether Moscow intended to stop the referendum by force, or whether it would merely refuse to recognise the result. That, however, could be an equally dangerous course if there is a large majority in favour of independence.

The Lithuanian referendum - termed an "opinion poll" by republic leaders - was originally scheduled for this week-end, but voting started on Monday, officially to accommodate those who said that they would be out of the republic or their constituency on polling day.

The referendum asks, simply: "Do you agree that the Lithuanian state should be an independent, democratic republic?"

An overwhelming "yes" vote was expected after the Soviet army's intervention last month when 14 people died in the capital, Vilnius.

several of them crushed by tanks.

In his decree, Mr Gorbachev condemned Lithuanian leaders for "exploiting the aggravated socio-political situation in the republic", where, he said, they were trying to "organise support for their separatist aspirations".

Mr Gorbachev's move came two weeks after the announcement of the Lithuanian referendum and is the latest of a series of confusing signals on Baltic policy to have emanated from the Kremlin in recent weeks.

Last Friday, the Soviet leader appointed three delegations to negotiate with the three Baltic republics on all aspects of their relations with Moscow. The appointments coincided with a meeting of the Soviet Union's top executive body, the Federation Council, where leaders of non-Baltic republics condemned the use of force to solve an essentially political dispute.

Yesterday, the Soviet president received the head of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party, Algirdas Brazauskas, who has often been tipped as a possible compromise leader.

Finnish fears, page 9
Leading article, page 13

Major hint on interest rate cuts

By OUR CITY STAFF

JOHN Major held out the prospect of "sustained interest rate reductions" as inflation falls. In the face of opposition calls for devaluation of the pound during prime minister's question time, Mr Major insisted: "Our policies are succeeding in reducing inflation. As inflation comes down, there will be the opportunity for sustained interest rate reductions."

His remarks sent the FT-SE 100 index up 29.6 to close at 2202.0, the highest since October 8 when the stockmarket was enjoying a short wave of post-ERM entry euphoria.

Business, page 21

Cartier

Saint Valentine's day

Cartier jewellery is sold exclusively in Cartier jewellery stores and Cartier boutiques. Each piece is accompanied by a certificate guaranteeing its authenticity.

AVAILABLE AT *Cartier Ltd.*
175/178 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1.
TELEPHONE: 071-493 6962.

THE FINE JEWELLERY ROOM AT HARRODS,
TELEPHONE: 071-730 1234.

AND by mail at *Cartier boutiques*:
AT HARRODS LTD, BROMPTON ROAD, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW1
TELEPHONE: 071-730 1234.

HARVEY NICHOLS, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON SW1
TELEPHONE: 071-235 2629.

THE NEW BOUTIQUE AT 188 SLOANE STREET, LONDON SW1
TELEPHONE: 071-235 9023.

White House conjures with prospect of Saddam's survival

THE Bush administration has come to believe that President Saddam Hussein is more likely to survive the Gulf war than he is to be destroyed by it. Officials grappling with postwar scenarios think it is increasingly likely that Saddam will lose Kuwait but maintain both political and military power in Baghdad and the wider Arab world.

"It's wrong to assume that this war is going to destroy him or that he's going to be bumped off," one well-placed source said yesterday. "A lot of people here see him not as Saddam the martyr, but as Saddam the survivor, and we are looking at the very real possibility that we will be faced with some untidy outcome to this war that would leave him still there."

As James Baker, the US Sec-

retary of State, prepared to testify on Capitol Hill today, the first senior administration official to do so since the war began, sources in Washington sketched a picture of a messy and indecisive end to the conflict, rather than the clear-cut result that is widely assumed.

Saddam's stature would be enhanced because he had confronted the world's great superpower. He would have left Kuwait, voluntarily or involuntarily and possibly with much of his army destroyed, but would not have surrendered or renounced his territorial claims and could continue to fire shells and missiles across the border.

The United States would then have no mandate to chase him back to Iraq and would be obliged to maintain a substantial

A messy and indecisive end to the conflict, rather than the clear result widely assumed, is now envisaged in Washington, Peter Stothard and Martin Fletcher write

force in the region almost indefinitely. With Kuwait liberated, Washington would find it extremely difficult to sustain an international trade and arms embargo against Iraq.

Although Saddam maintains that he will fight to the end in Kuwait, officials think recent events suggest that the Iraqi leader has one eye on life after the war. They point to the exodus of his 100 or so best aircraft to Iran. If Saddam continues to refrain from using chemical or biological weapons and from ordering seri-

ous terrorist outrages, they believe that may also be a sign that he does not wish to put himself beyond the pale. Even his costly incursion into the Saudi town of Khafji could have been designed to prove that he could take the battle to the superpower, and bloody Saudi Arabia's nose, before retreating.

The growing acceptance of these "survival" scenarios has caused new controversies in Washington between rival planners in the White House and the state department. Key White

House strategists think it merely likely that Saddam will stay in power; in the state department, there are those who think it would be preferable for him to do so if the cost of destroying him is thousands of American casualties, a destabilising power vacuum and a postwar diplomatic disaster for the United States that could last for decades.

Their arguments extend to immediate action as well as to longer-term planning. The White House tends to the belief that diplomacy's role now that war has begun is simply to keep the coalition together until the enemy is defeated and Saddam is removed. The state department, although anxious not to appear open to compromise initiatives like that made by Iran this week, still thinks that diplomacy may

have a role in reducing the cost in American lives and regional influence.

There are few in the administration who would admit to wanting Saddam's survival if his death or capture could be quickly achieved. Everyone is satisfied that the United States took the early precaution of destroying Iraq's chemical, nuclear and biological production plants. There is anxiety, however, that he will be bought to account for war crimes, has committed himself to an outcome which is no longer the most likely.

Different escape routes are being produced to extricate Mr Bush from the corner into which he has pushed himself. "One possibility may be that some of

the sanctions are kept on until questions of compensation are dealt with, until decisions are made regarding whether there might be war crimes activities," Robert Gates, the deputy national security adviser, said last weekend.

He is the head of the inter-agency task force, based at the White House, which has the main responsibility for planning a study, and Mr Baker is expected to draw on its preliminary results in his testimony to the House and Senate foreign affairs committees today and tomorrow. Both groups were set up after widespread criticism that the Bush administration had given more thought to winning the war than the peace.

BATTLE TACTICS

How generals will choose moment for ground attack

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

HOW will the allied commanders in the Gulf know when the right time has come to begin the ground campaign? Will it be when 50 per cent of the Iraqi equipment has been destroyed or when the Republican Guards have been bombed non-stop for a month? Or perhaps when Iraq's oil-refining capacity has been reduced to zero?

Military briefers have been anxious since the allied air campaign began on January 17 to emphasise that damage assessment was not a precise science. It was not possible to keep a running count of the number of Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery pieces, ammunition dumps and fuel storage sites which had been successfully destroyed. But this sort of information is needed if General Norman Schwarzkopf, allied commander in the Gulf, is to be able to make up his mind when a ground offensive should be launched.

The Ministry of Defence in London tries to keep a tally of the amount of Iraqi equipment destroyed. The list, in the operational room, is updated each day. But none of the ministry team of military officers and civil servants can claim the list is totally reliable.

It is one of the bizarre features of this war. US satellites, reconnaissance aircraft, eavesdropping electronic systems and other intelligence-gathering capabilities provide the allies with a unique picture of the battlefield. Theoretically, if an Iraqi tank moves from one position to another, some airborne device somewhere will spot it and send the information down to a ground station so that a seek-and-destroy mission can be launched within minutes.

But this all-embracing intelligence umbrella is not foolproof. There are days when General Schwarzkopf can provide an extraordinary list of targets hit, as he did last week when he said that in a 15-hour period last Tuesday, 178 lorries, 55 artillery pieces and

better picture of Iraq's potential, or lack of it, for mounting an effective counter-attack to an allied ground offensive.

Ironically, one of the difficulties in assessing damage is the time it takes to examine the endless glut of data generated by thousands of air sorties. One official with the US Joint Chiefs of Staff has been quoted as saying that the damage assessors have been "overwhelmed with data".

British assessors have erred on the side of the conservative, in order not to raise false hopes of a weakened Iraqi army, when the opposite might be the case. As commanders keep on saying, no one will know exactly how damaged the Republican Guards are until the ground war begins.

But it would be too risky for General Schwarzkopf to base his decision on the timing of a ground attack merely on guesswork. The US general said yesterday, in an interview with *The New York Times*, that the decision would be partly intuitive. But in the end it would be "a compendium of actual results, measurable results, estimated results, anecdotal results and gut feel."

Before General Schwarzkopf decides the time has arrived for launching the allied ground offensive, he will want to have received enough indicators that once the battle had begun, the Iraqis would be incapable of sustaining the fight for any length of time. Those indicators will include food and fuel supplies, the rate of defections, and an assessment of morale among Iraqi troops, as well as the number of tanks and artillery pieces known to have been destroyed.



Schwarzkopf: results and gut feel will herald assault

52 tanks were destroyed or damaged. There are others when none of the military briefers seems confident enough to predict how many Scud launchers are left.

There is, of course, an element of game-playing here. Allied commanders prefer to disclose successes only when it seems appropriate. They are not going to reveal everything they know because damage assessment is an operationally sensitive business.

If General Schwarzkopf were to announce next week that 50 per cent of Iraq's armour had been destroyed, that might give a hint to President Saddam Hussein that an allied ground attack was imminent.

Some American officials have claimed that one-tenth of Iraq's army equipment has now been destroyed. If that is distributed equally across Saddam's theatre of operations, the impact on Iraq's war-fighting machine may be only marginal. But if it could be said that more than 80 per cent of ammunition and fuel supplies in Kuwait and southern Iraq had been destroyed, that would give General Schwarzkopf a much



Battle's end: uniform rows of tents fill a Saudi Arabian sports stadium 30 miles behind the front line. The arena has been taken over by the allies as a prisoner-of-war camp, waiting for Iraqi troops captured by the coalition forces

TERRORISM

Bombs found near big US naval base

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE FBI yesterday opened an investigation into whether Iraqi-inspired terrorists placed six pipe bombs on two huge chemical storage tanks near Norfolk, Virginia, the largest naval base in the world. The bombs were discovered and defused on Monday.

No evidence has yet surfaced to link them with Iraqi sympathisers. They nevertheless merited headline treatment in yesterday's American newspapers because

this is a land that has practically no experience of international terrorism within its borders.

Britain has long grappled with the IRA, and most west European nations with Middle East terrorists in various guises. The worst that has been visited on Americans in America were the relatively mild activities of the Weathermen, the Symbionese Liberation Army and other home-grown dissidents in the 1960s and early 1970s.

If Iraq managed to export the war to the United States it could cause something close to panic. "It would be total shock," said Debra Van Opstal, a terrorism expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"It would certainly be a profound shock to Americans because we have been this sanctuary separated by the distance of the oceans for so long," said David Silverstein, an expert in low intensity conflict at the Heritage Foundation.

Both feared that Iraqi-inspired terrorism could inspire a revival of xenophobia in the United States, directed particularly at Americans of Arab descent. Mrs Van Opstal said it could erode public support for the war.

Despite Iraq's threats, no terrorist incidents have been reported in the United States in the first three weeks of the war, with the possible exception of the Norfolk incident. The law enforcement agencies nevertheless have taken those threats extremely seriously.

ENVIRONMENT

Oil slick may not be as large as feared

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the world's largest oil slicks was being sped by early-spring winds southward along the Saudi coast yesterday, while efforts to combat it gathered steam. However, one American report suggested that the slick was not nearly as large as first thought.

Experts from 11 international organisations meanwhile began a two-day meeting in Geneva yesterday to discuss the environmental impact of the war. The meeting is part of an effort by the UN to establish an international, independent, and objective assessment of the damage that could be caused by the war. Last week Mustafa Tolba, the head of the UN Environment Programme, said that releases from Iraqi nuclear, biological and chemical weapons facilities could be as disastrous as the oil spill now contaminating the Gulf.

All the UN agencies sent representatives to the meeting, which was also attended by conservationists and a representative of the oil industry. The experts will be looking at the threats mentioned by Dr Tolba. Sharp differences of opinion have emerged among scientists. So far, most of the dangers have failed to materialise.

The report that the slick may not be as large as feared came in an oil industry newsletter, which said the oil spreading across the Gulf contained perhaps 24 million gallons of crude, which would make it far smaller than most estimates.

The reason may be that both the Iraqi plants are small research reactors in which the fuel is immersed in a pool of water at least five metres deep. Such reactors do not contain large quantities of fissile material and are operated only intermittently. Both are surrounded by large earth walls to protect them from bombing.

Scientific opinion is also divided over the risks of bombing Iraq's biological weapons plants.

The International Atomic Energy Agency meanwhile said yesterday that there was no evidence that attacks on the Iraqi nuclear installations had released any radioactive contamination. Since the attacks took place at least two weeks ago, any releases that had taken place would have been detected by now.

The reason may be that both the Iraqi plants are small research reactors in which the fuel is immersed in a pool of water at least five metres deep. Such reactors do not contain large quantities of fissile material and are operated only intermittently. Both are surrounded by large earth walls to protect them from bombing.

'Inflexible' Baghdad blocking initiatives

Moscow — Before leaving for Tehran yesterday, Aleksandr Belonogov, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, told journalists that Iran and the Soviet Union were both considering how best to advance a peaceful solution of the Gulf conflict.

"Unfortunately," he said, "all peace initiatives at present come up against the inflexible position of Iraq which is still refusing to meet the demands of the world community and withdraw its troops from Kuwait."

The Soviet foreign ministry spokesman said that at present there were no plans for Mr Belonogov to meet Iraqi representatives while he was in Iran, but that such a possibility could not be excluded. He had no comment to make on suggestions that the Tehran meetings had been arranged at Baghdad's initiative.

Mr Belonogov's visit to Tehran, he said, was "by mutual invitation".

Mr Belonogov said that any settlement had to contain "as an essential element" the question of the future of Kuwait. He said that the situation in the Gulf region was developing fast and the war was already "crossing reasonable bounds and inflicting irreparable damage on Iraq", but he insisted that the restoration of Kuwait's independence was a condition of any settlement.

A chief Soviet concern since the outbreak of war has been that it should not "run out of control".

Syrian connection

Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, is due to arrive in London today for the first visit by a senior member of the Damascus government since diplomatic relations were resumed in November (Michael Knight writes). After the two-day visit, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is expected to visit Cairo and possibly other capitals in the region for first hand discussions on the progress of the war with Iraq and, more specifically, its aftermath.

Execution claims

Brussels — Iraq has forcibly drafted migrant Egyptian and Sudanese workers into its armed forces and executed some who refused, according to a report published today by the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which expressed concern for millions of foreign workers. The report quoting unidentified sources, said that the bodies of some workers, executed for resisting call-up, had been returned to Egypt. (Reader)

Supplies arrive

Geneva — The International Committee of the Red Cross said last night that four delegates and 19 tonnes of medical supplies left Tehran by road last Thursday had now arrived in Baghdad. Officials of the Red Cross had earlier expressed anxiety at the lack of information. Since the war started, the eight Red Cross delegates in the Iraqi capital have been deprived of any direct telecommunications link with their headquarters here.

Kuwaiti contracts

London — The world's leading construction firms are preparing to fight for lucrative contracts to rebuild shattered Kuwait. Exiled Kuwaiti officials began quietly contacting firms in October for what could be a \$60 billion reconstruction, and Ghazi al-Rayes, Kuwait's ambassador to Britain, said those coalition countries that helped to drive Iraq out of his country would be taken into consideration when the rebuilding commences. (Reader)

Gunmen arrested

Riyadh — Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it had arrested the gunmen responsible for an attack on an airport bus in the Saudi city of Jeddah. Two American servicemen and a Saudi security guard were wounded. The Saudi Press Agency identified the gunmen only as "residents", a term usually used to refer to foreigners working in the kingdom.

German neo-nazis ready to fight for Iraqis

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WHILE hundreds of German soldiers and reservists have lodged legal claims to be treated as conscientious objectors since the Gulf war started, a handful of right-wing extremists say they have volunteered to join the Iraqi army "to fight against America and Zionism".

The leading spokesman for these volunteers is Michael Kühnen, a former army officer and a neo-Nazi, who was given a suspended prison sentence in 1985 for distributing illegal right-wing literature and who has founded two extremist groups, both of which have been banned by the authorities. He and some of his supporters were filmed and interviewed training in a wood near Frankfurt by the ARD

Television *Panorama* programme, and claim they have already applied for visas to travel to Baghdad. "I want to fight against Jews and kill them," one of them said.

Herr Kühnen later claimed in a radio interview that it would be simple for him to raise a group of 500 Germans to travel to Iraq and fight for President Saddam Hussein. The latest published German counter-intelligence service report says that there are about 1,300 neo-nazis active in western Germany, of whom 170 are militant.

There are no official figures yet for the numbers of extreme right-wing activists in eastern Germany, although a series of violent demonstrations by skin-

heads, and systematic desecration of Jewish memorials since unification suggest that there is a hard core of neo-nazis there.

Heinz Galinski, the chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, has written a letter of protest to Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, expressing his concern that the television programme showed that "incitement and preaching of hate" were still possible.

Although there is no confirmation yet that Germans have joined the Iraqi army, a recent report in *Le Figaro* quoted two supporters of the French National Front, who produced new uniforms of Iraq's Republican Guard. They claimed they were on the way to join 20 other

Frenchmen and 60 east and west Germans they knew were already serving in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, German lawyers who specialise in helping conscripts and reservists to be classified officially as conscientious objectors are having to deal with a rush of new business since the government agreed last month to send aircraft and anti-aircraft batteries to help guard Turkey against a possible Iraqi attack.

Since the decision, pacifists have set up a camp outside the army barracks in Oldenburg to lobby soldiers and they have also opened an office in Hamburg to advise on "collective refusal". The office is also ready to help American soldiers being sent to

the Gulf to desert, and about 100 of them are now believed to be hiding in Germany or Scandinavia.

War aid condemned: The opposition Social Democrats yesterday condemned the German government for providing financial aid to the United States and Britain towards their military costs in the Gulf war.

The party's policy-making central council said the decision to send Bundeswehr units to Turkey had been "dangerous politically" and called for the immediate recall of all German troops. The council said that the party would support massive material help for reconstruction in the area but "we are not ready to finance war".

FRONT LINE

Syrian artillery fire halts Iraqi troops in border incursion

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time in the Gulf war, Syrian troops opened fire on Iraqi troops yesterday on the Saudi frontier.

About 30 Iraqis had attempted to cross the border into northern Saudi Arabia but were driven back by Syrian artillery fire in the first such incident between troops of the two countries.

For decades Syria and Iraq have been at ideological loggerheads, being ruled by rival wings of the Baath party, but clashes between them have, in the past, been fought through proxies in Lebanon.

Syria's involvement in the fighting makes it the first Arab country from outside the Gulf to join battle with Iraq. Damascus has said its soldiers in Saudi Arabia would be used only to defend the kingdom, and not for offensive purposes. It has allowed Palestinian and other left-wing groups, based in the Syrian capital, to

voice opposition to the American-led onslaught on Iraq.

Syria has not revealed the number of soldiers it sent to Saudi Arabia, but it is believed to be around 20,000 supported by several hundred tanks.

Before the engagement, the only Arab units believed to have clashed with the Iraqis in ground fighting were from Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Troops from two other non-Gulf Arab countries, Egypt and Morocco, are also in Saudi Arabia as part of the coalition.

The air war, which has dominated the conflict since it started nearly three weeks ago, has involved the air forces of nine nations flying nearly 50,000 sorties. Apart from Western air forces, aircraft from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait's allied government have so far taken part.

The Syrians, stationed well

out in the northern Saudi desert, have remained highly secretive, staying away from media coverage of their activities. Much of their equipment, like that of Iraq, comes from the Soviet Union.

But there is an atmosphere of phoney war on the rest of the front. After nearly three weeks, the war has taken on a surreal atmosphere for many of the 500,000 allied troops, who have seen little of the action and so far endured little out of the ordinary, beyond acute tension and the physical discomfort of life in a cold, windswept desert.

"Even for television viewers, it has largely been a war without casualties despite the tens of thousands of tons of high explosive dumped on to Iraq," said one American sergeant who had watched some of the round-the-clock coverage. "It does not seem to me that things can go on like this for much longer."

Allied troops in the front lines have been able to watch at a distance as the B52 bombers have dropped their punishing loads on the dug-in Iraqis; they have even occasionally felt the sand shudder, but they remain largely in ignorance about how much actual damage has been caused.

As Rod Jensen, a Sandi-based columnist for the American military paper *Stars and Stripes*, wrote in an attempt to dispel the false sense of optimism that has taken a grip in some quarters: "Considering that we are in a war, there have been few deaths, few injuries, and few disruptions for our side. But the worst is still to come. This will yet be a war of deaths. The oil spill will seem frivolous. A time is coming when the jokes will end."

The current phoney war atmosphere has been increased by the method in which allied commanders have chosen to package what restricted information they have released about the fighting to date.

The use of compulsively watchable videos of the uncanny manoeuvrability of so-called "smart" weapons, the long-distance shots of explosions in which no blood is shed, the action replays and smiles of satisfaction (even the occasional round of journalistic applause) have given the impression that the war is somehow taking place one step removed from reality.

The Jordanians are thought to be annoyed at a possible implication in her comments that their drivers were in some way colluding with the Iraqis in the transportation of military goods on the roads.

Underpinning the quarrel which is further souring US-Jordanian relations is the universal view in Amman government circles that Jordan is being deliberately punished for continuing to try to import Iraqi oil and for not joining the allied coalition.

Jordanian officials are convinced the air attacks are deliberate. Western sources deny this pointing out that some oil tankers look similar to Scud launchers.



Mine of information: a Coldstream Guards engineering instructor showing British troops at a Saudi desert base how to detect and disarm a mine. The Iraqis are believed to have laid 500,000 mines in Kuwait

SAUDI ARABIA

Khafji veterans itch to rejoin fight

FROM DENHOLM BARNETSON ON THE KUWAITI BORDER

THE Saudi soldiers injured in last week's battle to retake their coastal town of Khafji are still nursing their wounds, but are more than ready to rejoin the fight. About a dozen of them are in the King Abdul Aziz airbase hospital getting final treatment for various cuts, burns and trauma suffered in their successful operation last week to recapture Khafji after a surprise Iraqi invasion.

Sergeant Saad Subahi, of the Saudi border guard, sitting up in bed to speak with visiting reporters, said he wanted to get back to the battlefield and then quickly move on to Kuwait. "We are ready at any time," he said firmly. "We are just waiting for the order."

Having faced the Iraqis in Khafji, Sergeant Subahi feels ready to make a judgment, and it is not charitable. "They were actually below expecta-

tions," he said. "The way we heard about them, we thought they would be much stronger."

"Even though they are Arabs, if they behave the wrong way and they try to come into our country, we will fight them back no matter who they are," he said. Of President Saddam Hussein, he said: "He is not a normal person. I never thought this would happen from an Arab leader." Sergeant Subahi was injured when Iraqi artillery

destroyed the tank he was standing beside, killing the soldiers inside.

A total of 18 Saudi troops died in the battle. They fought the ground battle alone with Qatari troops, while the United States military confined its role to air support.

Josie Klunder, a Dutch nurse at the hospital, said that in spite of being among the first combat casualties, her patients had few complaints. "They're tougher than the

normal regular soldiers that we get over here during peacetime," she said. "If they (other soldiers) are here when the war is not on... then they're complaining already about a lot of pain when they don't have any real big thing (wrong with them). Those guys are quite pleasant."

Kamal Shahab, the hospital's acting medical director, said: "They are very tough... they want to go back to the battlefield."

JORDAN

Anger intensifies over killed drivers

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN AMMAN

THE row between Washington and Amman over the deaths of Jordanian oil tanker drivers in allied bombing raids intensified yesterday with claims of more deaths by Jordanian officials. The American ambassador here was summoned for an explanation of remarks made by an American State Department spokeswoman about the affair on Monday.

An unnamed senior Jordanian official was quoted here yesterday as saying that a total of eight oil tanker drivers, all but one of them Jordanian, had been killed up until Saturday, doubling the previous figure of four. The official claimed that 16 people, nine of them Jordanian, had been wounded in the allied air raids and 36 oil tankers on which Jordan relies for supplies of crude from Iraq, had been destroyed.

He added that he had no firm information on how many civilian cars had been hit, but that his casualty figures were based on the number of dead and injured brought across the Jordanian border at the Ruweisah frontier post.

The claims come in the wake of criticism of American action against civilian traffic on the road by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, who described the targeting of Jordanians as "inadmissible". "Why should Jordan suffer from a war in which it is not a party?" he asked. "Of course I deplore these acts. Anything which affects Jordan is something which I strongly deplore."

Yesterday, Taher al-Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, who has called the allied action deliberate and a clear violation of the Geneva convention protecting civil-

Pérez de Cuellar attacks on tankers "inadmissible"

ians in time of war, summoned the American ambassador for clarification of remarks made by Margaret Tutweiler, the State Department spokeswoman.

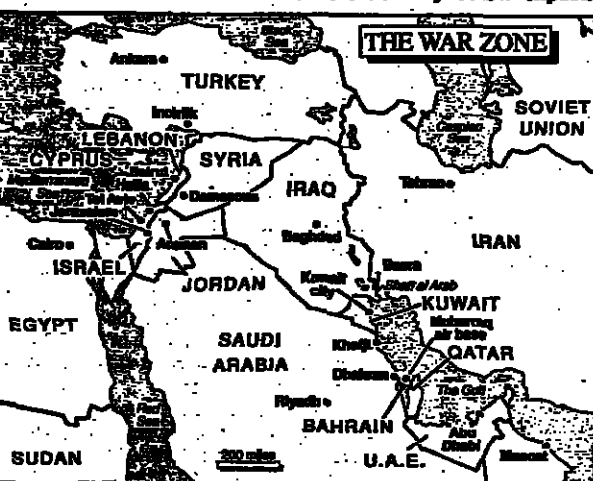
Miss Tutweiler said America had evidence that Iraq was mingling military equipment, some of it related to Scud missiles, among civilian traffic, including oil tankers. This was making it difficult for pilots to avoid hitting both.

She also noted that the oil tankers were travelling through a war zone and specifically an area used to launch Scud missile attacks.

The Jordanians are thought to be annoyed at a possible implication in her comments that their drivers were in some way colluding with the Iraqis in the transportation of military goods on the roads.

Underpinning the quarrel which is further souring US-Jordanian relations is the universal view in Amman government circles that Jordan is being deliberately punished for continuing to try to import Iraqi oil and for not joining the allied coalition.

Jordanian officials are convinced the air attacks are deliberate. Western sources deny this pointing out that some oil tankers look similar to Scud launchers.



GULF NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Macabre calling cards of war

WITH the start of a land war, in which allied frontline troops are expected to take up to 25 per cent casualties, thought to be close, a wave of superstition has spread through the toughest looking soldiers in the American contingent.

Corporal Chris Hough, aged 21, a paratrooper with the United States 82nd Airborne Division, will be going into battle with a lock of his son's hair in his wallet for luck and a wooden Christmas ornament, carved by his wife, in his helmet band.

A colleague, Sergeant Gary Warshaw from Texas, will be carrying a teddy bear sent by his four-year-old child, an amointed cloth from a Baptist church and the tail of a rattlesnake that he caught when he was home in Fort Worth a year ago.

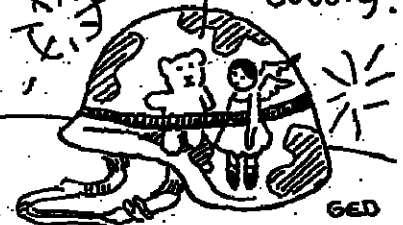
More macabre are the so-called "death cards" which many American soldiers carry to stick on the bodies of Iraqi soldiers whom they kill in combat. Specialist James Alexander, aged 24, from Atlanta, will be carrying five acres of spades in his helmet lining, the visiting card of his Delta Company. "I am a killer," the soldier explained with unswerving candour. "We are supposed to tack them behind their cars."

Many of the cards are crude and tasteless and far removed from the gentlemanly picture of war that has so far been presented in the bulk of

censored television coverage. Those carried by one platoon in Bravo Company of the 2nd Battalion, 325th US Infantry Regiment, read, with an ungrammatical insult against the Muslim enemies, "Died like the pig that you was".

The messages on the "death cards", an unattractive trait which has never caught on in the British army, reflect the gung-ho, macho approach being

This is the thanks you get for being cute and cuddly.



adopted by a number of frontline US troops and causing concern for the more sanguine British commanders. While many of the paratroopers will be carrying, in their helmets, perfume underwear from wives and lovers, or pages torn from smuggled pornographic magazines, specialist Richard Jones from Nebraska will be carrying a

"death from above" card which says: "I am an American paratrooper. If you are recovering my body, kiss my cold, dead arse."

The onset of a war which many had hoped to avoid has prompted a sudden switch in musical tastes among the American troops who will have to fight it and who, until recently, were demanding mindless rock music of the loudest variety from disc jockeys at Shield 107, the armed forces radio station.

In recent days, a sharp change for soft, sentimental songs has been noticed. Among the station's most requested songs in the past two weeks has been one entitled *From a Distance*, which condemns all wars.

British military purists are unhappy that the main camps in the British forward maintenance area have been named after the middle-brow television series *Black Adder*.

As well as *Black Adder* camp (and a new *Black Adder* shoulder flash), there are also *Baldrick* lines, *Melchett* lines and *Camp Bob*, all named after characters in the series starring Rowan Atkinson. "It is a disgrace," remarked one young second-lieutenant in plummy tones. "Montgomery camp, Alamein camp and Slim camp would have been much more in keeping."

LEBANON

Israeli jets hit guerrilla bases

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO

IN SARBA, SOUTHERN LEBANON

ISRAELI fighter-bombers yesterday destroyed Palestinian guerrilla positions in seven villages in southern Lebanon, killing at least eight people and wounding 28. It was a devastating response to the upsurge of rocket attacks intended to open a "military front" in solidarity with Iraq, and the strongest Israeli warning to PLO guerrillas in Lebanon in years.

The 20-minute attack destroyed nine bases of Yasser Arafat's Fatah guerrilla faction, and one office of the Iraqi Baath party in the hills east of Sidon. But as he walked through the smouldering ruins of his base in the village of Sarba, a few miles north of Israel's front line in Lebanon, the PLO commander in the region, a stocky, cigar-chomping man who goes by his nom-de-guerre of Abu Ashraf, vowed: "Nothing will stop us. We will fight, even if the only weapons left are the rocks of these hills."

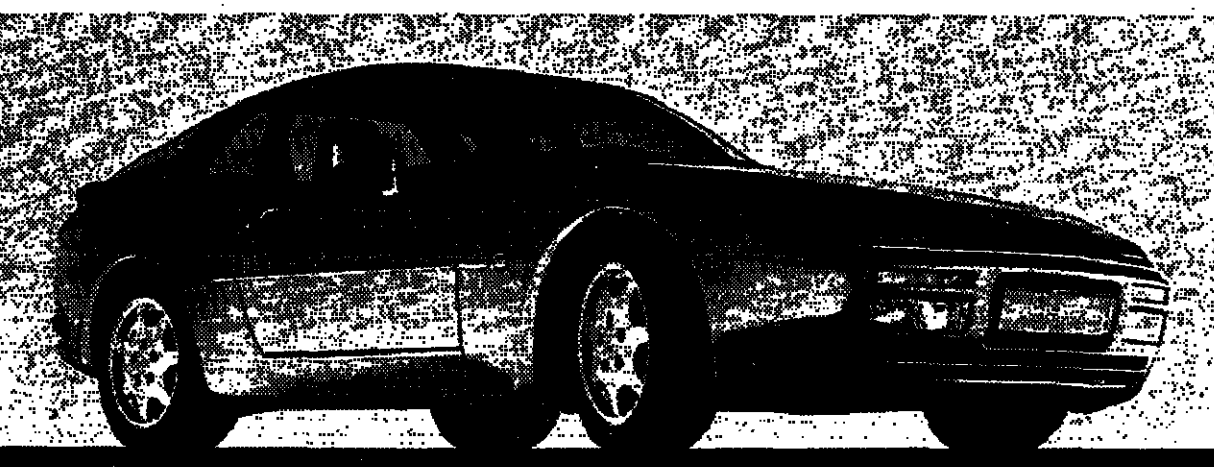
Abu Ashraf had just left the base when the aircraft struck at the two-storey concrete house, flattening it with six direct rocket hits. The only civilian killed in yesterday's raid was a Lebanese baker who was delivering bread to the base when six low-flying jets opened fire.

The same Israeli squadron later destroyed Fatah bases in the nearby villages of Arab Salim, Houmine, Qrayeh, Kinsmaya and Mharbiyeh, smashing buildings which until yesterday were adorned with the smiling portraits of Mr Arafat and President Saddam Hussein. The raid was clearly meant to warn Palestinian guerrillas controlling strategic hills in the Iqim al-Toufah region that the next Katyusha rocket attack against Israeli positions would provoke greater reaction.

Last week PLO guerrillas fired at least 200 Katyusha and Grad rockets in a symbolic but militarily insignificant attempt to demonstrate solidarity with Iraq. Most of the missiles crashed in empty hills of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone".

Letters, page 14

On the road to economic recovery, someone has to drive in the fast lane.



Introducing the Porsche Finance Scheme.

For a limited period of time, and for the business customer only, Porsche Finance has rendered it possible to drive a new Porsche 944 S2 coupé for as little as £499 per month.

Simply make a 25% deposit on a 3-year lease-purchase agreement. (Or,

you can make a deposit of 17.5% and pay at a monthly rate of £599.) After a final balloon instalment you'll own the car outright.

What's more, the 944 Turbo and Cabriolet models are available under the same programme. So visit your

Official Porsche Centre for full details. And get through hard times in the best way possible. Very quickly.

The Porsche 944 S2, £35,682 at 31st January 1991.

PORSCHE
DRIVING IN ITS PUREST FORM

FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE 944 SERIES, PORSCHE FINANCE AND YOUR NEAREST OFFICIAL PORSCHE CENTRE, POST COUPON TO CUSTOMER RELATIONS, PORSCHE CARS GREAT BRITAIN LTD, FREEPOST BATH ROAD, CALCOT, READING RG1 1BR TEL 0734 323959

TITLE _____ NAME _____ CURRENT CAR _____

ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

POSTCODE _____

The last train to Baghdad

The Berlin-Baghdad railway, once a thriving network, has been devastated in the Gulf war. Michael Binyon examines its future

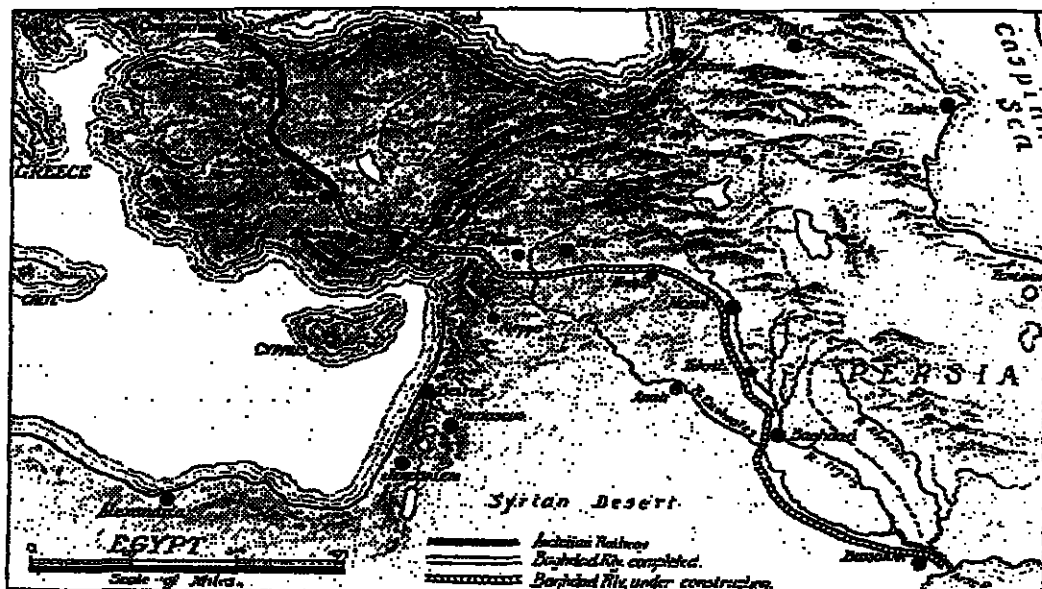
THE relentless allied bombing of Iraqi bridges, junctions and marshalling yards leaves in ruins one of the few extensive railway networks in the Middle East. The old Berlin-Baghdad railway was a focus of strategic rivalry between Britain and Germany. Now it is a truncated line, through trains halted long ago by political quarrels, the track now devastated by bombing.

Will Iraq's railways go the same way as the Hejaz railway, left to crumble in the Saudi sands ever since T.E. Lawrence and his saboteurs halted the Turkish trains to Medina? Railway experts say that is unlikely. Whatever becomes of Iraq after the war, the railway system will have to be rebuilt if the country has any hope of recovery.

Before the war, four main lines covered the country. The line from Baghdad north, the route of the old Berlin-Baghdad railway, carried traffic to Mosul. Completed after the first world war, it once went on through Syria to link up with the Turkish rail system. But Syria closed its borders to Iraqi traffic ten years ago.

The other main route led south from Baghdad to Basra. It was originally a metre-gauge line, built in the 1920s during the British time of influence. As steam trains were run down, traffic dwindled and stopped. But beside it the Russians constructed a standard-gauge line in the 1960s, which carried considerable traffic to Iraq's only outlet to the sea. A small but vital spur leads south from Basra to the port terminal of Umm Qasr.

This vital supply route to the army in the south has been



A map of 1909 showing the actual and projected route of the railway's Middle East section

repeatedly hit. Numerous bridges carry it across the waterways that spread out from the Tigris and Euphrates. Allied bombing has destroyed one big bridge at As Samawa, and the allies have shown film of missiles destroying bridges too wide for any temporary pontoons to replace.

Two other lines are also relatively modern. One line from Baghdad through Haditha to the Syrian border ends on the frontier in a stretch of wasteland where politics foiled plans to extend it through to Aleppo. A line leads off this towards the phosphate deposits near the Jordanian frontier. Another heads northeast through Baiji and on to Kirkuk, an important oil centre. In 1989,

Iraqi railways carried 2,678 million ton kilometres of freight and 1,643 million passenger kilometres.

Railways are peculiarly vulnerable to attack in war. There is no need for the complete destruction of a line; once several key bridges are blown up, the line becomes useless. After the war, therefore, the Iraqis will probably be able to salvage most of their lines.

Railways play little role in the modern Middle East. The Iraqi network was one of the few, together with the Egyptian rail system, that was still planning expansion. But that will have to wait until long after the first trains begin to run again.



Reporters are shown film of a Tornado attack on an Iraqi rail bridge



A train halted on the line to Baghdad before the second world war and the chaos of the Gulf war

Focus of intense rivalry

The Berlin-Baghdad railway was seen by the imperial powers as the short cut to India. As the focus of intense rivalry between Germany and Britain, it played a large part in bringing Turkey into the first world war.

Work on the first phase of the line connecting Istanbul with the Persian Gulf was begun in 1888 by the Ottoman empire with German help. In 1902 the Ottoman government granted a German firm the concession to lay new track eastwards from Ankara.

The 1,500-mile line was to be completed in 12 sections, but

financial difficulties and technical problems of tunnelling through the Taurus mountains made progress very slow. But by 1918 the line had reached Nusaybin, several hundred miles short of Baghdad, and was completed only by the governments of Syria and Iraq some years later. It never reached Basra.

From the start, Britain saw the line as a threat. Lord Lansdowne, the foreign secretary, declared that "England would consider it an unfriendly act for any power to establish itself on the shores of the Persian Gulf."

Cool interpreters make sense of the babel in the airwaves

By GEORGE HILL

EVEN the faintest radio signal from the Middle East is more likely to be picked up in Caversham than anywhere else. Since the outbreak of war in the Gulf, the BBC's monitoring station for broadcasts from overseas, in a former stately home on the edge of the Thames Valley, has become a channel through which a listening world can follow the conflict through the mouths of all the horses in the race.

Caversham is always a 24-hour operation, but monitors are working overtime now to capture the torrent of words in the ether. The team of about 140 monitors normally includes 13 speakers of Arabic, but three more have been taken on to deal with the extra work, and the centre's output of translated material from Arabic sources has doubled.

There can never have been a war where the combatants have been more fully aware of how they can manipulate the sympathies of bystanders by their presentation of events. Caversham is the cool, calm medium through which this intensely motivated flow is collated, ordered and summarised.

The centre is based in a white Victorian mansion with Corinthian pillars, wide-spreading cedar trees and an airy prospect across Reading. It receives a deluge of up to one million words a day, in most of the world's languages, and renders it down for the media and other customers with an interest in the fortunes of war, into an orderly output of about 150,000 words (this is 50 per cent above the usual rate, and rather more than the average number of words in each day's issue of *The Times*). The crisis has brought a dramatic increase in subscribers receiving wire, fax or postal transcripts of output from regions in which they have an interest, at a basic rate of £100 a day. The centre is part of the BBC World Service, and funded by a separate grant-in-aid.

Monitors of broadcasts in Arabic include nationals of most countries of the Arab world. Most of them have long been settled in Britain. Citizens of countries on opposite sides of the conflict sit side by side in headphones, peacefully transcribing words of war from their homelands. Security has been stepped up at the centre, in case of terrorist attack.

According to Calum Makechic, in operational charge of the newsroom, their attitude is represented by a comment of a monitor from Israel: "Saddam says rude things about us, we say rude things about him - it's natural: this is the Middle East."

"If we got excited, we wouldn't last," says Mr Makechic. "Our monitors have to be first-class linguists with a strong news sense."

We are working extra hours in shifts, and coming in on off days, because the flow only relaxes slightly even in the small hours." Because of tension in the Soviet Union, the centre is monitoring not one crisis, but two. Some monitors who speak languages of the Baltic states, have taken to coming in although officially retired.

The world-wide task of monitoring is divided between Caversham and a similar centre in the US that listens to the Americas. Apart from this area and Western Europe, Caversham listens in to most of the rest of the world, including Eastern Europe, the Far East and Africa.

Monitors listen to scheduled news broadcasts and unscheduled programmes with a political content, such as speeches by party leaders. They pass an extensive translated summary to the newsroom where a team of 17 editors

prepare a tighter version in the form of a news story and send out news flashes giving the main points of significance.

"The copywriting process has to be both rapid and deep, for the main point of a transcript may be buried at line 300 of a leader's speech," said Mr Makechic.

"Usually the time between a broadcast being heard by a monitor and the time we put out a newflash is no more than 20 minutes," says Adam Raphael, who has become Caversham's voice to radio listeners since war began, since news programmes like *Today* have taken to turning to him for a comment.

As the lunchtime news comes round, he chats merrily to Brian Redhead over a radio link amid an atmosphere of country house magnificence, high-technology and institutional improvisation. Commentary like Mr Raphael's is something that Caversham

avoids in normal times. It is service that prides itself first of all on accuracy in supplying raw material on which others may make judgments. Nothing is put out as facts that is not confirmed from two independent sources.

"You might find us a little pedantic here in terms of cross-checking," says Mr Makechic recalling when the CNN television station was first to tell the world a dramatic piece of war news which soon turned out to be unfounded. "We might not always be first, but we do try to be reliable."

Baghdad radio's broadcast this week of coded messages will leave Western intelligence and security agencies with a puzzle (Stewart Tiedler writes). The first unofficial response in London yesterday was that the messages are intended to intensify fear of terrorism rather than instruct terrorist groups. Similar messages have been broadcast since 1982.



Tuned in: the listening room of the BBC's Caversham monitoring centre near Reading

Nonsense messages that conceal a sinister purpose

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ECHOES of the second world war can be heard in the cryptic messages which Baghdad radio has begun broadcasting over recent nights. The broadcasts, with Arabic phrases such as "From the headquarters to Urwah. Implement the last meeting" and "Call from Mahyub to 301. Report to the Bank" are thought by some to be designed to activate PLO terrorist cells. However, other experts believe they could be propaganda messages aimed at spreading fear in the west of fictitious terrorist plans.

In 1941 and throughout the allied landings in June 1944 at Normandy, listeners to the BBC's European Service were treated to

similar curious broadcasts. Some of the messages were biblical references from the minor prophets others fragments of nursery rhymes or jibberish. "Violets are Blue" "The Cow Jumped Over the Moon" or "Barbara's Cat has had Three Kittens" meant nothing to the uninformed listener.

To a member of the French resistance or a British spy in occupied Europe they could be long awaited instructions to blow up a bridge or await a night drop of guns or agents.

For example "Pigs Can't Fly" advised a specific agent that a drop was off, according to Professor Michael Foot, the official historian of the Special Operations Executive (SOE), which masterminded the broadcasts. The codes are believed to

have been the inspiration of a French wireless operator, Georges Begue, who wanted to simplify communications with allied commanders in Britain. The attraction of such pre-arranged codes, as opposed to the more complicated ciphers used for military communications, such as Germany's Enigma code, is that they cannot be easily cracked.

"Nobody can find out what they mean except the people that have arranged this with the intelligence services concerned and it is a waste of time to try," Mr Foot said. "The Gestapo spent a great deal of time trying to understand them but without success," he added.

In the run-up to D-Day hundreds of such messages were broadcast by the BBC to instruct

agents in pre-arranged sabotage operations against German military targets. These included syphoning oil out of tank transporters and substituting carbonborundum, a highly abrasive silicon carbide parachuted in by the allies. "When the Panzer commander sent for them they rolled into the local town quite happily," Professor Foot said. "But when they were loaded and he had the order to move them to Normandy on D-Day plus two, none of the transporters went as far as five kilometres before they seized up."

After the second world war the intelligence services have relied more on diplomatic networks, predetermined "drop sites" and ciphers for communicating secret messages. Nevertheless cryptic

messages on public radio stations have still been sometimes used. Details of Magdeburg Annie, a broadcast of endless numbers to East German agents stationed in West Germany by the Stasi, have emerged after the thaw in East-West relations.

In the early 1960s the CIA established Radio Swann on Swann Island off the Honduras coast to help in the abortive Bay of Pigs landings. The station broadcast a series of cryptic messages, in an attempt to convince Castro's security services that fictitious internal forces were ready to rise up in support of a landing.

Mr Foot believes the Iraqi broadcasts may be of a similar kind designed to fuel western fear and occupy allied code breakers.

BRITISH BASE

First B52 bombers touch down on giant Gloucester runway

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE first B52 Stratofortress bombers to be stationed in Britain for raids on Iraq began arriving at their Gloucestershire base just before first light yesterday.

Trailing black smoke, the huge olive-green aircraft swept in over the frost-covered countryside at irregular intervals to park alongside each other near the giant east-west runway, said to be the longest in Europe.

The eight-engined jets, with a wing span of 185ft and capable of carrying a 50-ton bomb load, were widely separated on the tarmac at the Nato forward-operating base, which until recently hosted a fleet of USAF air-to-air refuelling tankers.

Their arrival had been preceded by increased activity at the base, which only last year had been put on a care and maintenance basis with a skeleton staff of 50. Until then it had been home to more than 1,000 US service personnel, who for the past 11 years had helped to operate USAF tanker missions.

Officials declined to comment on the number of aircraft, that will be using the airfield, or what their exact targets will be, but they are expected to be used on raids against the Republican Guards and front line troops in Kuwait.

Last week in the House of Commons, Tom King, the defence secretary, said that "a limited number" of aircraft would use the base. The aim was to help to accelerate the ending of the Gulf war.

Ruth Ritter, mayor of Fairford, said: "I think the attitude of most people is that there's a war on, and this is the best way to get it over with quickly. Of course we are not against the base. What has brought

the war home to us is we can be 4,000 miles from the action and here we are on the front line."

Local people said that Americans began returning to the area about 10 days ago. The first arrivals were reported to be medical staff assigned to a hospital at Little Rissington, 10 miles away.

Photograph, page 1

TERRORIST FEARS Concorde's transatlantic flights cut

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has been forced to halve the number of Concorde flights across the Atlantic because of a sharp slump in passenger numbers.

From tomorrow only one daily supersonic service will operate between Heathrow and New York instead of the usual two, and the three-times-a-week service to Washington is being axed completely or at least until the beginning of March. Some Concorde, which often fly almost full, have been operating with only a handful of passengers on the three-hour crossing and since the war began on average only about a third of the 100 seats have been filled.

The first route to be dropped was the three times a week service to Miami via Washington but this has now been followed by even further reductions in BA's "flagship" service. The cuts will mean that BA's seven Concorde now fly only eight times a week instead of the 16 scheduled services which were operated before the Gulf war broke out. Supersonic charter flights have also been badly affected but the airline said last night that these would continue for the time being.

In an effort to fill the many empty seats still expected even on the reduced number of services, BA is offering staff and their relatives the chance of buying a single Concorde ticket to either America for £300 compared with the normal one way fare of £2,419. Air France is maintaining its daily service to New York but is to postpone proposals to introduce a second service from April.

The cuts reflect the dramatic decline in air travel which, according to BAA, led to a drop of 22 per cent in the number of passengers travelling through Heathrow and Gatwick in the first two weeks of the war. The North Atlantic was worst hit with a fall of 25 per cent.

Cancer drug not licensed due to doubts over safety

By THOMSON PRENTICE AND RONALD FAUX

THE cancer drug denied to a Manchester hospital patient because of its cost has not been licensed for use in Britain or the United States because of serious doubts about its safety and efficacy.

In spite of many clinical trials during the past five years, the drug, interleukin-2, has failed to win the approval of the UK health department or the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Many of the patients given the drug have suffered serious side effects.

Studies show that only a minority of patients have been significantly helped by it. The drug's American manufacturers, meanwhile, have incurred huge financial losses.

Nick Thatcher, a cancer specialist at the Christie hospital, Manchester, said yesterday that he intended to continue giving the drug to selected patients in spite of a decision by the hospital not to pay for it. A course of treatment costs about £2,500 per patient.

Mrs Maureen Kendrick, of Leek, Staffordshire, was discharged from the hospital last week after Dr Thatcher was told that money would not be available to buy further stocks of the drug. The hospital's pharmaceutical budget is overspent by £300,000.

The issue became a political

one yesterday when William Waldegrave, the health secretary, emphasised that the drug had not been approved either in Britain or America, and criticised Dr Thatcher's action. He said the hospital's decision was entirely sensible, and that the drug was of doubtful efficacy.

"One doctor breaking ranks with his colleagues and taking up an individual case is exactly the wrong way to take these decisions," he said. Mr Waldegrave rejected claims by Labour MPs that the case was a forerunner of drug rationing under the government's health service reforms.

A trial of the drug at the hospital showed that it was only helpful in 30 per cent of patients who received it, and some suffered could not tolerate its side effects. As a result, the hospital's drug and therapeutics committee refused to take on the costs of the drug, which the company had provided free during the three-year trial.

The company, Cetus, of Emeryville, California, has suffered multi-million pound losses because a FDA veto on the product last July prevents it being put on the American market. The company is desperate to provide the US authorities with clinical trial results showing that the drug combats otherwise incurable cancers. It has been licensed in nine European countries for treating kidney cancer.

There is no suggestion that the company has exerted undue pressure on clinicians in Britain to use the drug. Dr Robin Hunter, director of radiotherapy at the hospital, and a member of the committee, said: "There is no reason to believe that there is anything but a genuine clinical interest in this product. I am not aware of any pressure from the drug company. But the cost of the drug is high and its value is limited. The drug is disappointing and it is never likely to become a standard treatment for cancer."

Dr Thatcher said he had given interleukin-2 to about 200 patients who were not expected to survive beyond a year. "Out of that group 30 per cent had substantial tumour shrinkage and cancer symptoms alleviated. About ten to 15 per cent of the patients have survived two years or more, and indeed returned to work and full activity."

The drug was not suitable for every cancer patient and had to be targeted carefully, he said. Most people would agree that it offered the best chance for patients with advanced kidney cancer and advanced malignant melanoma, a form of skin cancer, he said.

A local appeal fund has raised almost £3,000 towards Mrs Kendrick's treatment and the hospital has received offers of money. However, David Poppitt, appeals liaison officer at the hospital, said that ethically it could not accept money for the treatment of individual patients.

Witness screening criticised

THE Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, yesterday came out firmly yesterday against army witnesses being hidden from lawyers during courtroom cross-examination.

Sir Brian Hutton said: "I find it difficult to envisage circumstances in which the interests of justice would require that the face of a vital witness should be screened from counsel cross-examining him."

Sir Brian, giving judgment in the Court of Appeal in Belfast in a case arising out of a request by the defence ministry for four soldiers to be screened to protect their identities, was supported by Mr Justice Higgins, who said confidence in the administration of justice would suffer if witnesses were not exposed to lawyers' view. The soldiers would be testifying in a civil case to support a defence of reasonable force that was likely to be challenged strongly.

Mr Justice Higgins said, however, the court set aside a judgment that the soldiers should not be screened. Sir Brian, Mr Justice Higgins and Lord Justice Murray said that the request for screening should be determined by the judge who hears a damages claim brought by the widow of a man shot dead by the SAS.



Kendrick: almost £3,000 raised to fund treatment

£77m 'for buying racehorse'

Two Irish men who had financial documents with a face value of £77 million hidden in a suitcase as they travelled through Heathrow airport told police they were going to the US to buy a racehorse, Knightsbridge crown court was told.

Thomas Coyle, aged 40, and Anthony Rooney, aged 30, both of Cherrybarnet, Drogheda, Co Louth, deny handling stolen goods. The trial continues today.

Naval enquiry

The defence ministry has launched an investigation after a junior naval officer and a Wren were found in bed together on board the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible while it was docked at Portsmouth. The couple were discovered in the officer's cabin. He has left the ship while the investigation takes place but the Wren remains on board. The carrier left harbour on Monday for a week of exercises.

Rivals level

The seventh game of the World Championship qualifying match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman finished in a draw yesterday (Raymond Keene writes). The game ended on move 27 after some fine defensive tactics by Short. The result leaves the score at 3½ points each with the eighth and final game to be played tomorrow, when Short will have the advantage of the white pieces.

Minister named

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday named Brandon Daly, a junior minister at the finance department, as defence minister. He succeeds Brian Lenihan, who was sacked during the presidential election campaign.

Pregnancy risk

Pregnant women were warned yesterday to avoid contact with ewes during lambing. The health department said that women could contract enzootic abortion, a viral sheep infection, which can cause human miscarriages.

CORRECTION

In our January 12 issue, we referred to George Arbatov as the former head of the USA and Canada Institute. He is, in fact, still the head.

Judge views Ritz rails in accountant's £1m fall claim

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HIGH Court judge adjourned a case to the Ritz hotel in Piccadilly yesterday to view terrace railings over which an accountant fell 26ft after a lunch party in 1985.

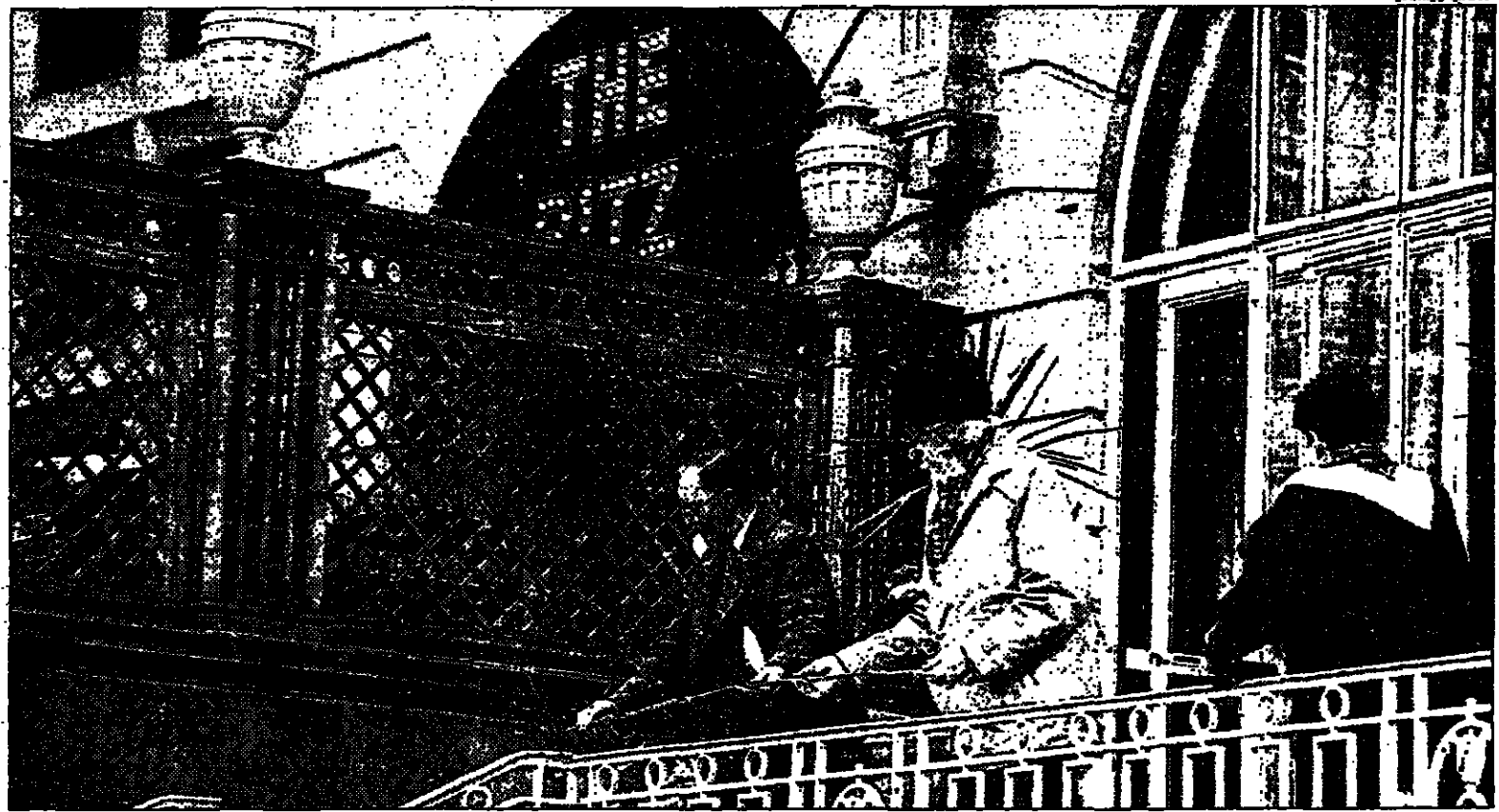
Anthony Ward, aged 50, who is suing the Ritz for £1 million damages, was asked to show Mr Justice Macpherson how he had been standing before the fall, in which he suffered a fractured skull and broken ribs. Then Mr Ward was asked to adopt a comfortable position leaning against the terrace balustrade, while measurements were taken.

Earlier, John McDonnell, QC, for Mr Ward, had said that the balustrade was about 7in lower than the 3ft 7in recommended British standard.

When the court party returned to the Royal Courts of Justice, Mr Ward said that his relationship with his wife had been affected by the accident. "I am far more short-tempered, less tolerant and more unsociable," he said. "It therefore means that she does not get to socialise with friends as much as she would like to do."

Mr McDonnell asked whether the couple's sexual relationship had been affected. Mr Ward said: "Yes. My sexual desire has been diminished very considerably as a result of the accident."

Mr Ward, who says he has no memory of his fall, said



Measure of justice: High Court officials examine a balustrade at the Ritz, where an accountant's fall has led to a £1 million damages claim

that he had never previously fainted, but had suffered occasional giddiness after treatment for a duodenal ulcer.

Cross-examined by Dermot O'Brien, QC, for the Ritz, Mr

Ward said: "I do not believe I would ever have survived the fall, had I been conscious."

Mr O'Brien put it to Mr Ward that in his demonstration he had taken an un-

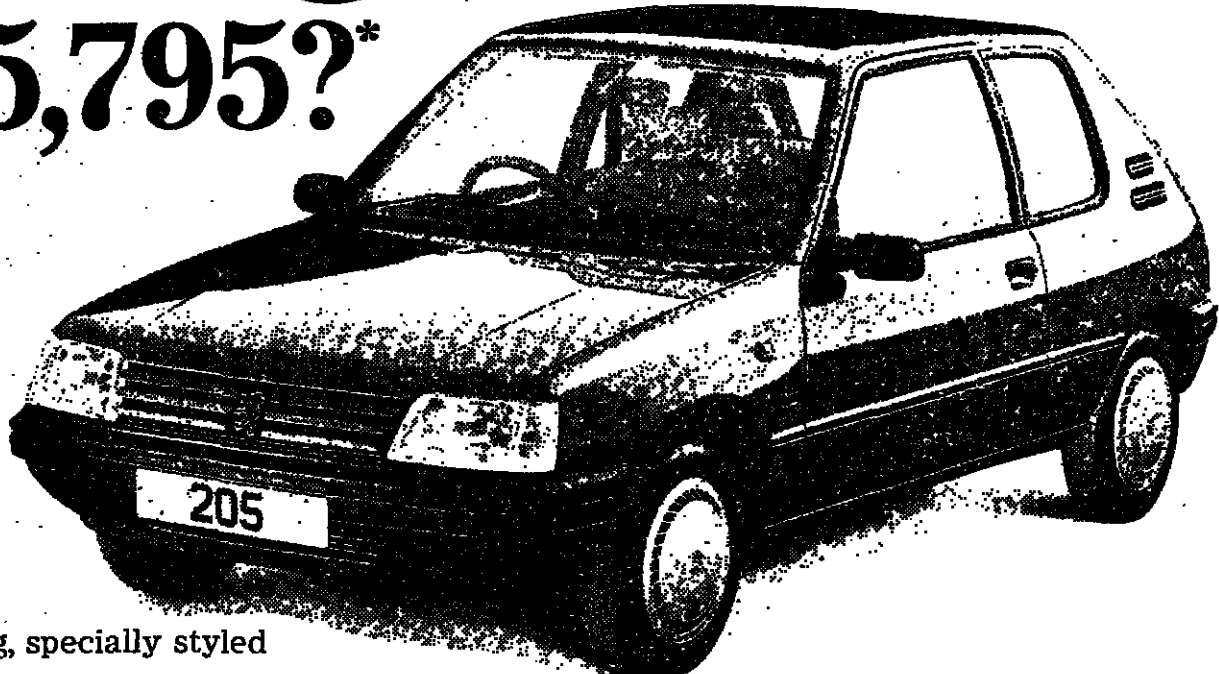
comfortable posture, as high as possible against the balustrade. Mr Ward said: "I assumed the position in which I felt most comfortable."

Mr Ward claims that his

decision to retire as senior partner of the accountancy firm Leigh Carr nine months after his accident was forced on him by loss of memory due to the fall, and that he would

otherwise have remained with the firm for perhaps ten years at a salary of about £120,000 a year. The Ritz denies liability and disputes claimed loss. The case continues today.

The Peugeot 205 Trio. Only £5,795?*



A brand new, gleaming, specially styled Peugeot 205 for less than (This year, send a Valentine's car.)

the price of 1,159 boxes of chocolates. It's a delicious prospect your Valentine won't be able to resist.

THE CLASSIC NOW COSTS LESS THAN LESSER CARS

£5,795* To put that price into perspective, just consider that you'll be buying the car that has set the standards for small hatchbacks, for no more than a Fiesta Bonus, and, believe it or not, for £435 less than a Metro 1.1C. (All prices quoted exclude road tax, delivery and number plates.)

'CAR OF THE DECADE'

Very few cars can, like the Peugeot 205, boast of being Car Magazine's 'Car of the Decade'.

And very few drivers will be able to boast of owning a Special Edition Peugeot 205 Trio.

SPECIAL STYLING

The 205's special driveability and excitement come with special styling: 3-colour side tapes and a special wheel trim set, along with a choice of four colours - white, blue and 2 shades of red.

There's also a Peugeot 205 Trio Plus that's even more special. It has all the Trio styling, as well as a stereo radio/cassette, rear wash/wipe and a pop-up sunroof, all for the exceptionally low price of £6,245*†††

IT'S YOURS FOR JUST £622

With Peugeot's amazing 10% deposit deal you can drive away in a Trio for just £622, and pay off the remaining 90% over 4 years at a typical APR of 17.19%.

OR 0% APR FINANCE

In addition to our outstanding 10% deposit deal, you can choose to pay no interest at all, thanks to our 0% finance offer. All you have to do is pay a 50% deposit for your Peugeot 205 Trio, then pay off the balance of the price over 12 months at a typical APR of absolutely nothing.

205 TRIO FINANCE EXAMPLE

INITIAL DEPOSIT**	DEPOSIT	0% APR
£622	£622	£622
PLAN PERIOD	48 Months	12 Months
PLAN TYPE APR%	17.19%	0%
INTEREST	£2,222	£0.00
MONTHLY PAYMENT	£52.22	£52.22
TOTAL PAYABLE	£2,504.16	£622

*ADDITIONAL ON THE ROAD COSTS ESTIMATED AT £425 FOR 6 MONTHS ROAD TAX, DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES. †††Peugeot 205 Plus on the road for £6,245. The above excludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates. ††††Peugeot 205 on the road for £5,795. The above excludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates. †††††Peugeot 205 on the road for £6,245. The above excludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates.

If neither of these finance schemes suits you, your local Peugeot dealer has more for you to choose from.*

If you want to make an impression on Valentine's day, make your way to your local Peugeot dealer. He'll be only too pleased to give you a test drive in a 205. Unfortunately he won't be able to gift-wrap it for you.

PEUGEOT 205 Trio

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PEUGEOT RANGE FREEDOM 0800 676 900

ALL PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. PEUGEOT FINANCE MOTOR CO. LTD. LICENSED CREDIT BROKERS. OFFER NOT APPLICABLE TO RESIDENTS IN N. IRELAND. OFFER APPLICABLE TO CARS REGISTERED BY 11/01/91. *EXcludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates. †††Peugeot 205 on the road for £5,795. The above excludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates. ††††Peugeot 205 on the road for £6,245. The above excludes on the road costs of a month's car tax, delivery and number plates.

Dunoon counts the cost of losing American submarine base

THE high street in Dunoon is much like any other in the Clyde estuary that have seen better days. Only the beat of the odd clapped-out V8 American car, snapped up for a few hundred pounds by local youths and farmers, hints at the little town's role as a US navy base.

Sitting on the edge of the Clyde estuary, overlooked by the Cowal hills, Dunoon has relied on the US submarine base for the past 30 years. A quarter of the town's 9,000 population is employed in the base's civilian jobs; almost everyone is dependent to some degree on the American presence. Most of the 2,000 American servicemen, and their families,

Plans to close the Holy Loch US navy base, announced by Tom King, the defence secretary, yesterday, leave a small town facing hard times, Kerry Gill reports

will leave the Holy Loch when the Poseidon nuclear submarine support facilities close, probably in 1992. It is estimated that £10 million a year will be lost to Dunoon's economy when the Simon Lake, the support ship anchored in the middle of the loch, sails. The loss to the west of Scotland's economy has been put as high as £70 million a year. Several thousand

and jobs could be lost in an area where alternatives, apart from tourism, are almost non-existent. Most people in Dunoon have grown up with the base on their doorstep. Few yesterday could believe that it was to go. A hotelier said: "You are joking? You're having me on." The owner of the largest outfitters said: "This will take away a third of our business."

The base is essentially the Simon Lake. All day and most of the night, a long line of taxis waits at the shore arrival point to take servicemen home. Alister MacAlister, of the taxi owners' association, said: "There are about 140 taxis in the town. Forty per cent of them will be dependent on the Americans. It will be an absolute disaster, there is just no alternative." Dunoon will no longer be known as the town with the most taxis per head in Britain.

John Thomson, aged 81, a former town provost, said that apart from the taxi drivers, shops and public houses would be hardest hit. He said: "Primary schools will also be badly affected and the

bottom will fall out of the housing market." About 300 homes have been built for the Americans.

Ray Michie, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, said that the Dunoon area was already classed as "fragile" by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, and that the British and US governments must help it to regenerate. "What annoys me is that the government has no plans for converting people's skills from military to civilian production or jobs to maintain employment at the end of the Cold War takes effect," she said.

Many Scottish girls have married Americans over the years, although most people agreed that

the servicemen kept themselves apart from the town these days. It was not always so. During the Sixties, there were fights between local youths and servicemen, and, later, cases involving drug abuse. People became alarmed at prostitutes crossing the Clyde from Greenock to ply for trade.

It was President Eisenhower who insisted that the base be in the Holy Loch. British ministers wanted it on Loch Linnhe, almost 100 miles north, fearing that public opinion would revolt against a base so near the Glasgow conurbation. When the first ship, the USS Proteus, arrived on March 3, 1961, to service the old Polaris submarines, 10,000 people joined

a demonstration. The following year, US servicemen turned host on demonstrators who tried to board the base from small boats. There were 350 arrests. By 1984, the base had 4,000 personnel servicing up to ten submarines. After the closure was announced, Lieutenant Steve Lowry, spokesman at the base, said: "People here have mixed feelings. Many of those with families love it - I certainly will be sorry to be going back. But for the single person, there is not much in terms of recreation. They are used to big shopping malls and temperatures of 65 degrees."

Photograph, page 20

Court refuses to hear uncontested appeal alleging fabrication

By CRAIG SETON

THE Court of Appeal yesterday refused to consider the uncontested appeal of a man who alleged that the now disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad fabricated his confessions to a theft for which he served three years in prison.

The court adjourned the case of Gary Binham, aged 28, from Birmingham, in spite of an acknowledgement by the Crown that the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided his appeal against conviction in 1986 would not be resisted. It heard that documents relating to Binham's conviction were missing from crown court and police files, in spite of exhaustive searches, and that one of them was alleged to be a forgery.

Lord Justice Russell, stating that the appeal would have to wait, told counsel for the Crown and Mr Binham: "It is for this court and this court alone to take

the decision and not for the Crown Prosecution Service, not for the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney-General or the home secretary."

The judge said that Binham's appeal conceivably could prejudice a forthcoming, unrelated trial on charges of perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice of two former members of the West Midlands serious crime squad. They were also involved in his case.

Binham has completed his three-year prison sentence after his conviction at Birmingham crown court five years ago for a £27,000 jewellery theft. He claimed his confessions were fabricated by detectives. He is at present serving a 10-year sentence for unrelated robbery charges. His solicitors said after yesterday's hearing in London that the court's unusual decision blocked attempts to prove that there had been a

pattern of malpractice involving fabricated evidence by former members of the serious crime squad in criminal cases. There are an estimated 12 cases involving convicted men awaiting appeal, some of whom are nearing the end of their sentences.

Lawyers for Binham said that they remained unaware of the reasons for the Crown's decision not to oppose his appeal. They understood that the decision would not be changed when Binham's appeal is finally heard, probably next year.

The court was told yesterday, however, that the Crown was unwilling for the court to allow Binham's lawyers to see a report on his case prepared by the Police Complaints Authority, which is supervising an investigation by West Yorkshire police into allegations against the squad.

Three convicted men who alleged they were framed by the squad have been freed by the Court of Appeal since last year. It had been expected that after the Crown's decision not to oppose Binham's appeal, it would have been a formality for the Court of Appeal to pronounce his conviction unsafe and unsatisfactory. David Martin-Sperry, for Binham, said he had not intended to name the officers awaiting trial and nothing would be added to any potential prejudice if the appeal was allowed.

Lord Justice Russell was told by David Seconde, for the Crown, that it was not believed that Binham's appeal would prejudice the forthcoming trial of former members of the serious crime squad.

Three former Surrey police detectives were charged yesterday with fabricating evidence against Patrick Armstrong, one of the Guildford Four, between 1974 and 1985.

Vernon Attwell, John Donaldson and Thomas Style, who gave their addresses as care of solicitors Russell James Walker of Holborn, were remanded on unconditional bail to March 5 by magistrates at Bow Street court.



Height of fashion: David Shilling, hatter by appointment to his mother, Mrs Gertrude Shilling, and to hundreds of racegoers, paraded his spring confections in London yesterday (Liz Smith writes). Several of his latest styles in colourful straw, with shaggy fringing instead of his customary ostrich plumes, were commissioned on a recent trip to Ecuador, in central America, where he has been appointed United Nations design consultant. Among the improbable top-knots he has created are the teetering straw hat, above,

from his Ecuador range, another with dark corkscrews of twigs perched on an upturned thirteen in silver wicker, and hand-painted face-framing futuristic sculptures. Mr Shilling has also given some thought to the cost of such frivolities. He has introduced a collection of simpler, strong silhouettes in glossy straw to sell at a lower price - relative to that of his usual designer creations. Trimmings can be a simple rose with a giant cellophane bow or an abstract coil of plastic. Called Fun-da-mentals, items cost from £100 to £250.

Brooke hint of pause over talks initiative

By A CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, indicated yesterday that he might have to defer his "talks about talks" initiative. Progress in the talks process over the past 14 months, aimed at creating common ground between Unionists and nationalists, has been painfully slow.

Mr Brooke has been engaged in shuttle diplomacy between the Social Democratic and Labour party, the Unionist parties, and the Irish government in laying the groundwork for future negotiations that would address relationships in Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between Britain and the republic.

While progress has been made, difficulties remain over the timing of the Dublin government's involvement and when the North/South part of the process should get under way. The Unionists want substantial progress first in the internal discussions before contemplating talks with Dublin, and even when they wish to be part of a Westminster delegation. The Irish government has made it clear it will not be dictated to by Unionists about its involvement.

Mr Brooke, during a visit yesterday to the New University of Ulster, told journalists that no significant progress had been made on the talks process since last week's meeting of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference. He said: "Maybe there will come a moment when we will need to pause or take stock, or put up the shutters for the time being." However, he was absolutely determined to test the process before reaching that point.

The Northern Ireland secretary pointed out that there was a degree of mistrust among the respective parties, which he could not eliminate himself. Ultimately, it was up to the people themselves, as it was they who would have to decide.

The participants in any future talks have been jockeying for position in recent months and clearly demonstrating a desire to protect themselves in advance, fearing that their opponents might not enter the initiative with the necessary goodwill. Although the initiative has had its low points before, as time goes on, the signs are not encouraging.

Printer is jailed for £23m fraud attempt

A printer who attempted a £23 million fraud using forged documents was yesterday jailed for six years.

Paul Burridge, aged 31, of Crowborough, East Sussex, described by the defence as an introvert who was obsessed with getting rich, was ruthless in his persistent fraud. Judge Charles QC, said at Inner London Crown Court. He ordered that Burridge forfeit £3,279 from bank accounts he ran under false names. The court was told that he set up a bogus finance company in Jersey after stealing special paper from the securities printing firm, Bradbury Wilkinson, where he worked.

He also obtained more than £33,000 worth of camera equipment, computers and guns to finance the attempted £23 million fraud. The judge said that for over 13 months Burridge deprived people of property worth more than £33,000.

He said Burridge used bogus bank drafts to buy the cameras and computers, which were later sold to finance the attempted £23 million fraud. The stolen security paper was to be used to forge large-denomination certificates of deposit which Burridge intended to use.

Burridge was convicted on four charges of forgery after a two-week trial. He had pleaded guilty to 14 charges of obtaining property by deception and two of theft.

James Turner, for the defence, said that Burridge was a Walter Mitty character. "He is not a master forger; he had done little better than one could have done with a John Bull printing set".

House raided

Thieves have stolen antique fireplaces and fittings worth £200,000 from an empty Victorian house in the grounds of the Windsor royal estate, Berkshire. The house was awaiting renovation work.

Ban on singer

Sarah Brightman, the singer and former wife of Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, was fined £110 and banned from driving for 28 days for driving her car at 106mph on the M3. She was allowed 28 days to pay the fine.

More jobs go

Humberstone factories are to lose a total of 198 jobs. J.H. Fennell, transmission engineers, of Hull, are making 53 workers redundant and the BP gas terminal near Hornsea will lose 70, mainly temporary workers. At Grimsby, 75 jobs will go at the Bird's Eye plant.

Boxer accused

Nigel Benn, the boxer, appeared at Bow Street magistrates' court, central London, charged with attacking a man he suspected of damaging his £90,000 Bentley car. The case was adjourned until February 26.

200ft river fall

A man was critically ill in hospital last night after plunging 200ft from a motorway bridge into the Avon at Avonmouth, near Bristol. He was picked up by the crew of a passing dredger 25 minutes after the fall.

Ward's baby boom

A 24-bed obstetrics ward at Halifax general hospital, West Yorkshire, is being closed early because of the number of nursing staff taking time off to have babies.

Recovery of unpaid rent by bailiffs condemned

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE practice by landlords of using bailiffs to seize goods from tenants in arrears with their rent should be abolished, the Law Commission recommends today.

The remedy, known as "distress for rent", is wrong in principle although its use has increased considerably in recent years, the commission says in a report. It condemns the practice as "unjust to the debtors, to other creditors and to third parties".

Under "distress for rent", a self-help remedy, a landlord whose rent has not been paid can send in a bailiff without going to court, except in the case of most residential lettings by private landlords.

The commission, however, which is responsible for reviewing English law and recommending reform, says that landlords should not take precedence over other creditors. It also says that it is wrong that bailiffs are entitled to seize goods belonging to people other than the tenant.

The remedy is "unduly harsh" because there is often an intrusion without warning, the rules can be abused, the goods may be sold for less than their value, and the tenant's chance to challenge the landlord's claims are limited. It also takes no account of the tenant's circumstances.

Common law and statutes dating back to 1689, "sometimes complex, illogical and obscure", allow landlords recourse to the remedy, which the commission says is mainly used to collect arrears from council or commercial tenants.

Much of the increase in its use seems to have been the result of court delays making landlords seek other ways to recover their rent. In the case of most private residential lettings, however, the landlord must obtain leave of a court first. After at least five days, when the tenant can pay the arrears and retrieve his belongings, the bailiffs can sell the goods to recover the arrears and their costs.

The commission's proposals, in the form of a draft parliamentary bill, would not abolish the remedy for recovering other debts, including fines, income and corporation tax, VAT, poll tax and non-domestic rates. It accepts that abolition should be delayed until the courts can cope adequately.

In the meantime, the commission recommends as an immediate reform that a landlord who sues for rent should be able to obtain an order for payment of all arrears due when judgment is given, including any that fall due after he first applies to the court. At present, landlords have to take fresh action for the later arrears.

Distress for Rent; Law Comm, No 194 (Stationery Office, £9.65)

Pit villages 'losing out on £400m of EC aid'

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

STRICT government limits on council spending will mean that Britain will miss out on £400 million worth of European community grants and loans, David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said yesterday.

He said in St Helens, Merseyside, that under the EC's Rechar programme funds to renovate former coalfield communities were only available if they could be matched by extra municipal spending. Half of the total £300 million in grants and £500 million in soft loans available under the schemes had been earmarked for British pit towns and villages.

Government spending limits meant that local authorities could not hope to match the European money, and without a change of heart on the part of ministers the EC would divert the funds to other European countries.

The environment department said councils should ensure they had the matching funds before applying for European money.

Leading article, page 13



Blunkett: councils "cannot match EC money"

MPs seek labelling of microwave ovens

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOMESTIC microwave ovens should be labelled as unsuitable for commercial use to try to cut the risk of food poisoning, the Commons agriculture committee says today.

The cooking temperatures of domestic models can fall after long periods of continuous operation, leading to "cold spots" in which pathogenic micro-organisms could survive, the committee says.

The MPs conclude, however, that there is nothing inherently unsafe about microwave ovens if food is cooked for long enough. They say that no food poisoning cases have specifically been associated with the estimated 11 million appliances in domestic use in Britain.

It was discovered, by an enquiry held in the light of continuing concern about the safety of micro-

wave ovens, that every appliance was capable of cooking food to a safe temperature. It was also found, however, that they were not as trustworthy or simple to operate as was popularly supposed. The MPs say that both the ovens and the convenience foods to be heated in them need accurate manufacturers' instructions.

The use of domestic models by caterers worried the MPs, but they do not recommend legislation. Instead they suggest that warning labels are put on all domestic appliances. Their report says that people who use domestic ovens for commercial use are probably unaware of the technical reasons making the practice dangerous.

House of Commons agriculture committee 1st report: microwave ovens (Stationery Office, £8.10)



Double event: Sara Crowe, aged 23, the actress praised for her part in the recent Aldwych theatre production of Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, takes a break with Sir Peter Hall during *Twelfth Night* rehearsals to collect two awards (Simon Tait writes). At one ceremony she accepted the London Critics' Circle award as most promising newcomer, and at another she was named the Variety Club's best actress. Sir Peter received the critics' best-director award for *The Wild Duck*. Nigel Kennedy, the violinist, was the Variety Club's show business personality of the year.

Gummer seeks EC pact on animal welfare

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY IN LONDON

JOHN Gummer, the agriculture minister, yesterday accused other European Community states of a cavalier approach to animal welfare and called for an end to the inhumane treatment of pigs and calves reared in modern factory-farm conditions.

Britain is committed to phasing out stalls and tethers for pigs within eight years and has already banned the use of veal crates in intensive calf-rearing. Both systems are widely used on the Continent, and moves to introduce EC-wide controls have

made little progress. While Mr Gummer is pressed by animal rights groups to introduce stricter regulations, he faces criticism from livestock producers, who say unilateral action by Britain would put them at a disadvantage.

Last month, the Commons gave an unopposed second reading to a private member's bill on pig husbandry tabled by Sir Richard Body, a Conservative backbench MP, that would bring forward the deadline for the abolition of narrow stalls and tethers for sows from 1998 to the end of 1995. Grenville Welsh, chief executive of the National Pig Breeders' Association, said: "We are concerned about the possible

economic effects of a long time-lag between the adoption of welfare regulations in Britain and their acceptance by the rest of the Community. We could see a surge in cheaper imports."

After discussions with other EC farm ministers in Brussels yesterday, Mr Gummer said: "There is no doubt that some countries have a more cavalier attitude to animal welfare." He refused to name them, but sources said France was high on his list. Mr Gummer said he had won the support of Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands. Luxembourg, which holds the EC presidency, promised to set up a working group to push forward the matter.

Mr Gummer envisages the eventual harmonisation of animal welfare standards. He began his campaign yesterday with a call for the European Commission to set minimum crate sizes for intensively reared calves. In addition, he said, new pig stalls and tethers should be banned at once and existing ones phased out by the end of the century.

Work on minimum welfare standards for EC factory-farmed livestock was shelved last June when EC experts began a separate study into the economic impact of humane farming on Europe's meat producers.

Conifers help to cause acid rain, report says

By JOHN YOUNG

CONIFEROUS forests, far from being victims of acid rain pollution, in fact contribute to the acidification of lakes and rivers, according to a report yesterday.

The joint report by the environment department and the Forestry Commission is the first acknowledgement that the post-war afforestation of upland Britain has been a significant factor in the spread of acid rain.

It says that forest canopies "scavenge" the deposits of sulphur and nitrogen compounds emitted

by power stations, factories and motor vehicles. In areas above about 1,000 ft forest cover can increase sulphur and nitrogen deposits by up to 50 per cent and 100 per cent respectively.

The report calls for a detailed appraisal of areas where this scavenging effect results in critical levels of acid deposits.

Forests and Surface Water Acidification (Department of the Environment, Room B356, Romney House, London SW1P 3PY)

Minister tries to soothe fears on sick pay bill

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

THE government sought to soothe the fears of small business yesterday by offering to modify plans cutting compensation to employers for sick pay.

Tony Newton, social security secretary, said that small firms will be able to claim 100 per cent of sick pay for employees who are off work for more than six weeks instead of eight weeks as originally proposed.

Mr Newton told MPs of this "additional safeguard" for small businesses during a debate on Lords amendments to the Statutory Sick Pay bill which has been criticised severely by peers. Otherwise, he made clear, the government wished the main aim of the bill, to reduce the reimbursement rate to employers for sick pay from 100 per cent to 80 per cent, to stand.

The concession will apply to employees of about 700,000 small firms who are defined by the size of their national insurance bill. That must be less than £15,000, Mr Newton said.

Hospitals 'closing beds'

By PETER MULLIGAN

HEALTH authorities were cancelling operations and closing beds to make way for Gulf casualties, it was alleged in the Commons yesterday, despite a government assurance that such action was unnecessary.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told MPs that the National Health Service was well prepared after they expressed concern about the ability of hospitals to cope with casualties from a chemical attack.

"We do not believe it is necessary for patients to be turned away from hospitals, wards to be emptied, anything of that kind at present," he said at question time.

If the worst came to the worst and there were many casualties, there would still be a considerable waiting time before patients began to arrive at health service hospitals, he added.

The health service carried out 8.5 million operations a year. "Even the worst-case scenarios that the commentators have been telling us about should be well within its capacity," he said.

However, Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, said that a woman in her eighties had received a letter advising her that many operations were being cancelled and hospital beds being closed in readiness for war casualties.

"It would be quite wrong if elderly patients were to be early casualties of the Gulf war," Mr Cook said. Health authorities should be urged to meet this new emergency not by closing back into service some of the 27,000 closed by the government.

He defended the government's proposals in the bill and urged MPs to reject a Lords amendment calling for the reduction in reimbursement to employers to be set at 91 per cent.

Facing concern from Tory MPs about the costs imposed by the legislation on employers, he indicated that improvements elsewhere in social security had to be paid for.

"None of these can be cost free and in one form or another the business community, as well as individuals, according to the balance of judgment a particular government takes, will have to find the costs," he said.

He also sought to meet fears in the business community that the 80 per cent reimbursement rate could be changed without new legislation. Another bill would be required for that to happen, he said.

Mr Newton said that the government had proposed a big reduction in national insurance contributions payable by employers. That had not been given enough weight in the debate over the bill.

On a reasonable assessment of the amount small businesses would pay in statutory sick pay and the amount they would gain in national insurance contributions, many were likely to be gainers, not losers.

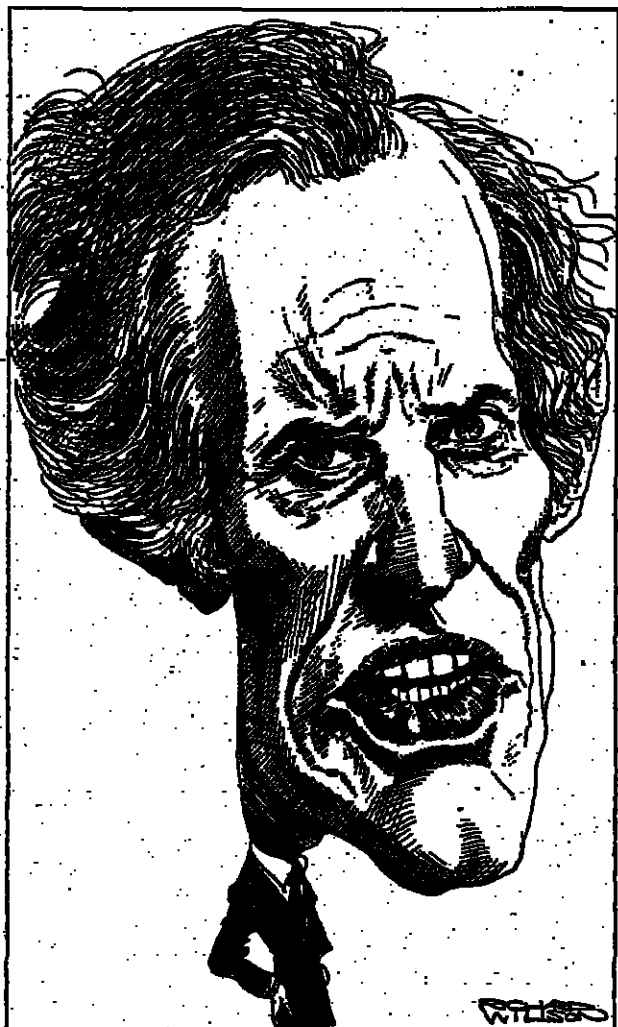
Michael Meacher, shadow social security secretary, said that if the government would not withdraw the bill, as unanimously demanded by industry and commerce, at least the House should retain those concessions forced through in the House of Lords.

He said that Mr Newton had refused to accept changes to the bill that made it cost neutral because he had to recompense the Treasury for the minor concession he had obtained to increase child benefit for the first child by £1. That was wholly objectionable. It was not right to justify cuts in provision for one vulnerable group on the ground that more was being done for another. It was not as though the £1 increase was much, but Mr Newton had needed a fig leaf in view of the coming election.

The Treasury's fingerprints, Mr Meacher said, were all over the bill. The measure, if passed, would set a precedent for the transfer of all sick pay to the employers.



Meacher: bill is payment for child benefit move



Newton: improvements elsewhere have to be paid for

Foreign Office is criticised over lost £56m

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR officials in the Foreign Office were criticised severely yesterday after the public spending watchdog found that it had "lost" £56 million in its accounts.

Problems with the introduction of a new computer system in the Foreign Office have meant that the Comptroller and Auditor General has been unable fully to approve four accounts in the department for 1989-90.

John Bourn, the comptroller, said that the problems had arisen because the new system had failed to work properly, the company providing the computer software, Memory Computers, had gone into liquidation and because there had been a large turnover of staff that had meant that inexperienced officials had been employed in the department.

In a report published yesterday, the comptroller also criticised the Foreign Office

management. "These problems were exacerbated by insufficient guidance and supervision, both in the original processing and in the subsequent reconciliation exercise," he said, adding that budgetary control of the new computer project, which had cost almost £1 million, had been poor.

The report from the National Audit Office found that the Foreign Office had been unable to balance its books in its accounting records. It said that, although the problem had been caused by accounting difficulties, there were net imbalances totalling £56 million on five accounts.

In four accounts, it added, recording payments and receipts that could not be charged to the main ledger account, the control system had broken down to such an extent that no reliance could be placed on the records kept within the overall accounting system.

Mr Bourn had had to suspend his audit when the old computer broke down because there were no further records available on which he could base his examination. "The department were clearly having problems in sorting out the middle and my staff found it difficult to obtain a clear and consistent understanding of the extent and nature of the problems as they developed." However, the report said that what checks had been made indicated nothing worse than computer error.

Patten pledge on growth

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

CHRIS Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said yesterday that the government's inflation policy would enable Britain to resume before long the faster rate of growth seen in the Eighties. He also insisted that the growth dividend must be used, whether or not there was a "peace dividend", to ensure better delivery of public services.

The target for 2010 should be "to raise standards in the public sector so high that no one will seriously believe that the private sector should be an automatic choice for those who have the resources to opt for it".

In a speech to the Policy Studies Institute on "Britain in 2010", Mr Patten described how Britain had recovered from the lowest growth and productivity positions in the Sixties and Seventies to top them in the Eighties. The present level of interest rates was uncomfortably high, but inflation was coming down and would continue to do so quite sharply.

In a signal of the government's intention not to be pushed into a premature cut in interest rates, he added: "A faster growth rate is a worthy policy objective for the increased employment opportunities, improved public services and increased standard of living which it can bring. But if there is one thing which we really have learnt over the last few years, it is that development needs to be sustainable. We cannot risk the prosperity and happiness of future generations in order to have a bit of extra consumption today."

Mr Patten, formerly the environment secretary, said that "green economics is now plausibly mainstream". People would have to pay more for things if they wanted them cleaner and healthier. But the sacrifices required should not be exaggerated: growth and care for the environment could go hand in hand and the price mechanism would be the best one for securing environmental goals.

By 2010, Mr Patten said,

"we will almost certainly have the best water quality in Europe as a direct result of recent legislation. Getting on for £30 billion will be spent in the next ten years on as ambitious a water clean-up programme as there is anywhere in Europe. We will have

far cleaner rivers, a virtual end to pollution from sewage and much higher quality drinking water."

Local government, he said, should concentrate on what national government could not do effectively, such as keeping the streets clean.

Belief in Aids risk rejected by young

By JOHN WINDER

A FRIGHTENINGLY high proportion of young people are prepared to take a risk and indulge in casual sex without using a condom because they regard sex as fun and do not believe that they are at risk of infection, a former Labour health minister told the Lords last night.

"There is a wildly irresponsible attitude, risking the lives of themselves and their sexual partners", Lord Emsdale said. Speaking in a debate on the present state of the HIV-Aids epidemic, and measures needed to limit its spread in the United Kingdom, he said: "Although the government has broadly tackled things well, we should not let down our guard."

If someone had a blood test for some other reason, there was no reason why a test should not also be carried out to discover whether that person had HIV infection.

His best estimate was that 46,000 people in England and Wales had probably been infected by the end of last year and, although homosexual men had accounted for most cases so far, the rate of increase in other groups was now much higher.

Funding of voluntary agencies in the area posed a real problem and there was concern about the ability to maintain existing projects, let alone start new ones. Penny-pinching now was endangering the lives of thousands in years to come.

Gulf families group

An all-party Gulf families support group under the chairmanship of Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, was set up by MPs yesterday. It was established to give help to families about communications, treatment of returning service men and women, information about prisoners of war, arrangements for burials and allocations from the Gulf trust fund.

Mr Ashley said: "The group will maximise help for families, encourage and assist them."

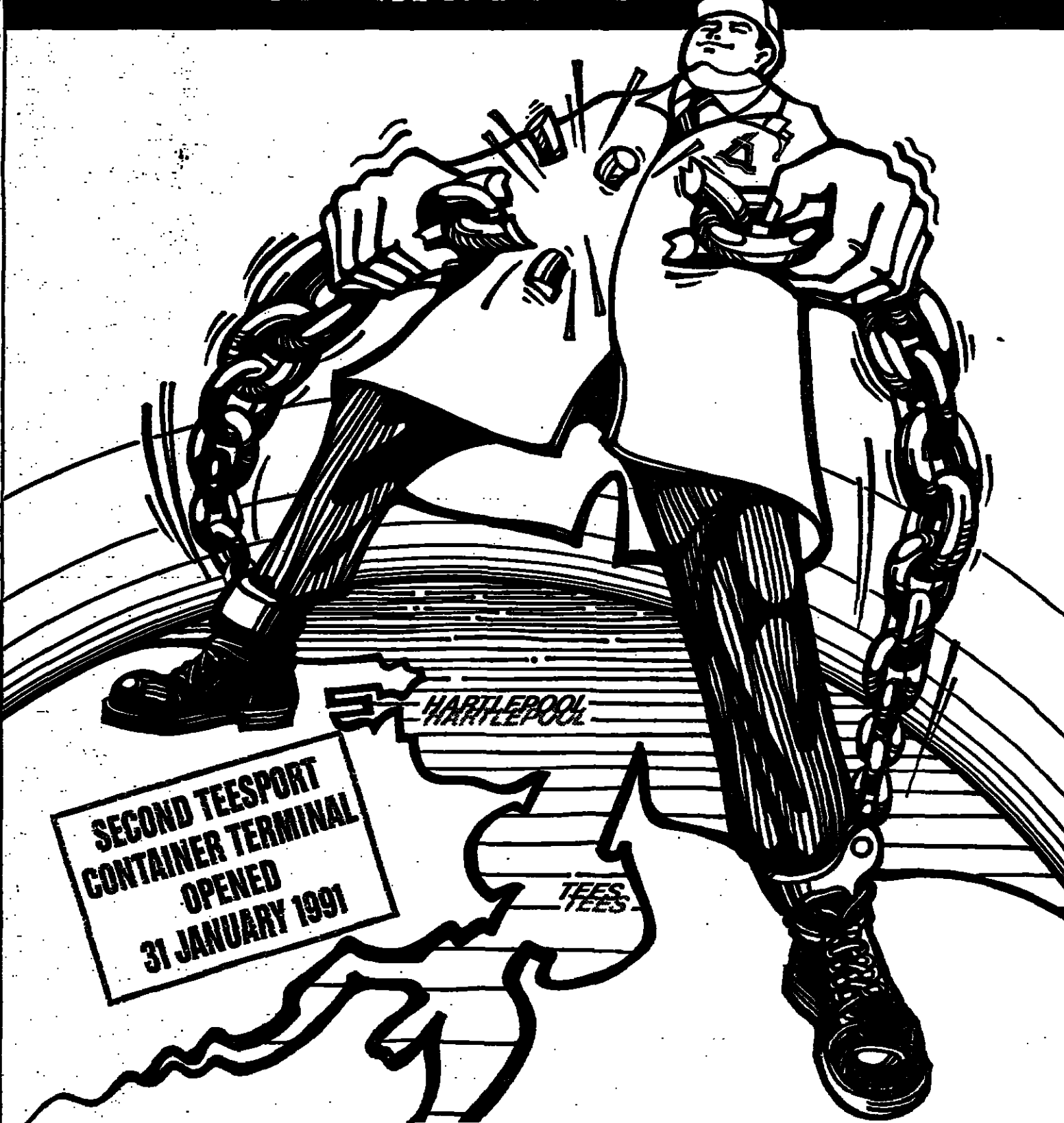
Sudan help increased

Britain is to give a further £4 million for famine relief in Sudan, Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, said after her return from the area. That brings to £76 million Britain's emergency aid to Ethiopia and Sudan over the past two years.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Opposition debates on training and on science education. Lords (2.30): Debates on the UN charter, on farm over-production, and on the Baltic states.

A NEW MOVING FORCE IS RELEASED



Leading the way in port privatisation

The ending of the Dock Labour Scheme and the encouragement of privatisation are two Government measures that are releasing the trust and municipal ports of the UK to exploit to the full their pent up energies, expertise and assets.

Those who choose the liberating road of privatisation will be ready to take their rightful place in the 1992 economic and commercial scene as dynamic, broad-based, integrated transport businesses.

In the van of the dash for freedom is the Tees & Hartlepool Port Authority. With a Bill for privatisation now before Parliament. With a new concept labour force making remarkable productivity gains. With a £30 million programme doubling Teesport Container and Ro/Ro capacity, and making Hartlepool the best port of its

kind on the North East coast. With a drive into the wider distribution and transport business. With a strong property portfolio under active development.

Even under constraint, Tees & Hartlepool has established itself as the UK's third busiest port and has increased tonnage handled every year for the past five years. In joint venture flagship schemes with Teesside Development Corporation it is making its own contribution to the regeneration of the North East.

Freed of constraint, it will be poised to build swiftly on its considerable strengths and play a leading role in the transformation of the UK ports industry.

TEES/SIDE
Initiative Teeside Ability



Tees & Hartlepool Port Authority

Mr Brock set for battle

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WESTMINSTER'S epic attempts to reconcile the conflicting circumstances of Tommy Brock and Mr Tod took a new turn yesterday with the launch of a private member's bill aimed making the badger a special case.

As Beatrix Potter so rightly observed, the badger and the fox have a habit of bedding down under the same roof. It is that inclination that has bedevilled past moves by backbenchers to throw a cordon sanitaire around badger sets and the latest essay by Roy Hughes, the Labour MP for Newport East, looks equally vulnerable.

Mr Hughes's bill, making it an offence to batter down Mr Brock's front door, is due for its second reading debate in the Commons on Friday week. Judging from the baying of the fox-hunting lobby at his press conference, however, he faces an uphill struggle.

Although his bill seeking to impose a maximum fine of £2,000 on the brutes who dig up sets will probably get its second reading, it seems likely that it will be brought to ground before it can complete all its Commons

stages. Mr Hughes, who has the enthusiastic support of a pack of animal welfare groups, did his best yesterday to placate his less squeamish opponents. The fox-hunting lobby's concern is that a ban on uprooting sets might deprive them of their quarry. With hounds at his heels, the fox commonly goes underground. He would be doubly secure if his sanctuary enjoyed legal protection.

Mr Hughes said that, although he had not included any exemptions for fox-hunting, he was prepared to be reasonable and accepted such amendments as long as they did not undermine the effectiveness of his bill. He was prepared to consider the temporary stopping up of sets while a hunt was in progress. "I can only attempt to assure the fox-hunters that this bill seeks only to protect badgers. It is not a backdoor attempt to strike at fox hunting."

His critics were unimpressed. His bill was a "legal nightmare" and it was impossible to arrive at a legal definition of a badger set.

He was on marginally safer ground with the

ers and foresters. They would not face prosecution if they inadvertently ploughed up a tunnel or flattened a set beneath a falling tree.

The Labour MP highlighted the cruel fate that awaits many badgers. A report from the Nature Conservancy Council suggested that about 9,000 were killed every year by badger diggers, who delight in the "sport" of pitting their terriers against the animals. The badger was protected, but his home was not.

Mr Hughes added that he had discussed his bill with Angela Rumbold, a Home Office minister, who had wished him good luck with his measure. He welcomed the minister's parallel announcement yesterday that those convicted of cruelty to badgers will face a jail sentence of up to six months in addition to a maximum fine of £5,000.

It was probably not lost on him that *The Tale of Mr Tod* ends in an unholly scrap with the two antagonists tumbling furiously down hill. For all the talk of compromise, the latest remake seems destined to end the same way.

Opt-out schools get three times more cash for buildings

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS admitted yesterday that grant-maintained schools are to receive almost three times as much money per pupil for building work as those staying under local authority control. The government has always promised equal treatment for all state schools.

Labour calculated that those opting out would be almost four times better off, while the Association of Metropolitan Authorities claimed that the same treatment for all schools would push up income tax by 2½p in the pound. Capital spending would rise by £4.4 billion.

Statistics published by Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, compared the 1991-2 capital allocations for

the 41 grant-maintained schools with the average for local education authorities. Calculations made by the statistical section of the House of Commons library put the amount to be spent per pupil in local authority schools at £83, compared with £326 in those opting out.

Although the education department put the grant-maintained schools' average at £240, taking into account those known to be opting out during 1991-2, it conceded that their capital funding would outstrip local authority schools' allowances.

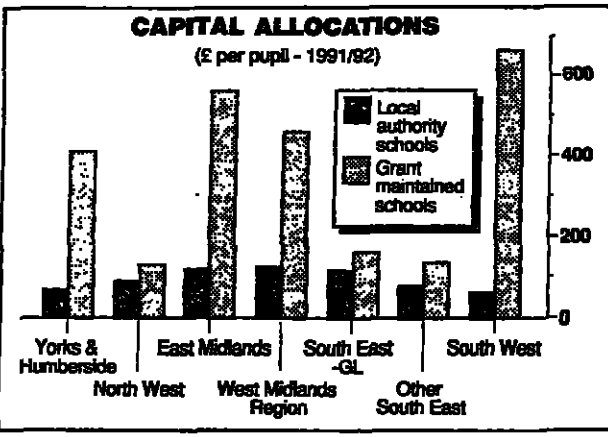
It said that some schools required extra attention because they had been run down in expectation of closure. Tim Eggar, the education

minister, said: "When schools become grant-maintained, we want to ensure that they are set up on a sound basis. This has led on average to higher capital allocations for the grant-maintained sector in 1991-2 than for local education authority maintained schools."

Successive ministers have promised that the financial advantages of opting out would be restricted to transitional grants for running costs and the savings made from dispensing with local authority services. Mr Straw said his figures showed that the reality was brazen favouritism for grant-maintained schools.

The greatest disparity between the two sectors will be in the South-West region, where a £1.5 million allocation to Pate's grammar school in Cheltenham has boosted the average spending per pupil in grant-maintained schools to £643. Local authority schools in the region average £68 per pupil.

Grants for the first trainees on the government's accredited teachers' scheme will increase substantially next year. Michael Fallon, the schools minister, said yesterday that the £5,000 bursary paid to new accredited teachers this year would rise to at least £6,500 in January for those in the final year of training.



Oysters to lift the spirits of desert princes

By ALAN HAMILTON

THEIR country may be at war, but even in these stormy times the princes of Saudi Arabia have not neglected the finer side of life. A fish farmer in Orkney has received an order from the desert kingdom for 500 kilos of Scottish oysters, and will be dispatching them to Jeddah on Saturday.

The consignment will make only the smallest of dents in Britain's annual £5 billion trade deficit in food and drink, but the exporters take the view that pearls grow from grains of sand, and pray for a return to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The appeal of Scottish oysters is that they come from waters as yet unpolluted by giant oil slicks. "We have an oil terminal in Orkney, at Flotta, but we have never had any major accident," Ken Sutherland of Orkney Fish Farms said yesterday. "The water is so clear, you can take the oysters straight out of the sea and eat them." The Middle East oyster trade with Orkney had been established before the war broke out, and, in spite of hostilities, showed little sign of faltering.

Because of the cold northern waters, the Orkney oyster producers, who have been harvesting commercial quantities for the past six years, near the Pacific oyster rather than the native English variety.

News of the oyster trade emerged yesterday at the opening of the Better Made in Britain exhibition at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre in London, whose organisers hope to persuade the country's leading food buyers, including the major



Promoting Britain: Sir Basil Feldman (left) and Emma Nicholson, MP (right), with the Princess Royal at the exhibition

supermarket chains, to buy more British produce. Sir Basil Feldman, chairman of the campaign, is concerned that eight of every ten tomatoes sold in Britain, and a similar proportion of apples, are foreign.

Tony Combes of Safeway produced a list of 70 food lines which his company had to buy abroad because British suppliers could not deliver the required quality, consistency, or price. The foreign lines

include French cornflakes, Irish beefburgers, Belgian boil-in-the-bag rice and German pizza. "We even have to import 80 per cent of the bacon we sell, because British manufacturers cannot provide consistent quality," he said.

The exhibition, which continues today, is intended as an opportunity for British food and drink producers to meet the major buyers and persuade them to buy British produce.

Government spending: Home Office

Drive to cut jail sentences boosts probation staffs

By QUENTIN COWDY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 800 extra probation staff are to be recruited in England and Wales over the next three years to supervise offenders who would otherwise be jailed and to exercise closer control of prisoners on parole.

The estimate is contained in the Home Office's first annual report, which says that planned sentencing reforms will increase the work of the probation service and voluntary agencies supervising offenders. Some 360 additional probation staff will be appointed by March 31, 1992, with another 480 due in post by April 1994.

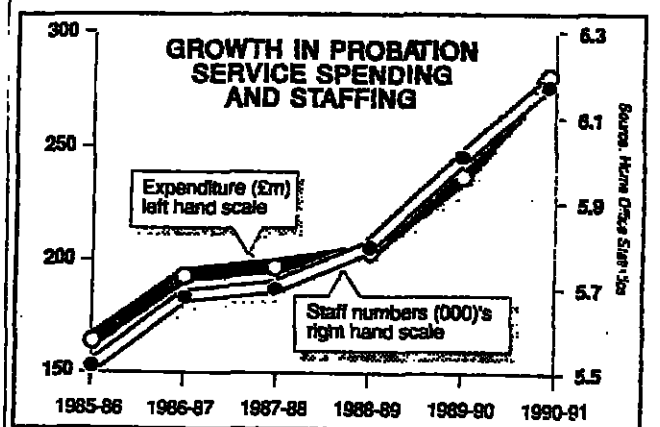
Increased funding is promised for voluntary bodies helping to resettle offenders and for about 30 other voluntary sector projects. As part of the same drive to reduce unnecessary imprisonment, the department is committed to

creating 1,100 new bail hostel places by April 1994.

Central government funding of the probation service rose by over 20 per cent in real terms between 1985-6 and 1989-90. Spending in real terms over the next four years is planned to rise by just under 25 per cent.

The document says that in 1988-89 it cost an average of £14,900 a year to keep an offender in jail. It cost £1,110 to supervise an offender on probation and £880 to steer one through a community service order.

The report says that prison building and sentencing changes should mean that jail places and prisoner numbers roughly match by April 1992. The building of planned jails at Ashford, west London, Marchington, Staffordshire and Fazakerley, Merseyside, has been cancelled.



Employment

Training budgets to be cut

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government yesterday confirmed that it is cutting £300 million from its training budgets, prompting criticism from Labour that the cuts would be "disastrous" at a time of recession.

Details of the cuts were given in a document outlining the spending plans for the employment department group. A series of such documents will replace the annual public expenditure white paper which has previously detailed departmental plans for public spending.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said that more than £2.4 billion of the department's total spending of £3.4 billion would be devoted to training, and that the report showed how the department used its resources cost-effectively.

The statement gives for the first time official figures on future spending on individual employment programmes. It shows that Employment Training, the scheme to help the long-term unemployed, will be cut from £1.062 billion to £757 million in 1991-92, a reduction of almost 29 per cent. Mr Howard said that the scheme had not proved to be the most suitable option.

Provision for the Employment Service, which includes job placement services and runs the government's programmes aimed directly at reducing unemployment such as Restart, is being increased from £214 million now to £234 million in 1991-92.

Defence

War costs need extra estimate

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS plan an extra estimate for defence spending to provide for the extra costs of deploying forces in the Gulf, which are running at about £4 million a day.

The government has already revised its 1990-1991 defence spending plans twice to include additional costs for paying war widows and providing for Britain's initial deployment of troops in the Middle East.

In spite of this, the government plans an 8.7 per cent reduction in real terms in defence spending during the next three years. A defence ministry report yesterday also said that the size of the armed forces would be cut by 57,000 by the mid 1990s, a similar size overall reduction in the civilian manpower employed by the defence ministry.

Defence spending for 1990-1991 is estimated to be £22,100 million, according to a defence ministry report published yesterday. Estimates show spending rising to £23,390 million in 1993-94, which is a reduction as a proportion of gross domestic product.

The defence ministry report said that the government hoped future security arrangements could be achieved with reduced forces, but added: "Defence planning must take account of continuing uncertainties, such as the potential danger arising from instability in the Soviet Union."

BEAT THE FREEZE

EASY STARTING EVERY TIME
Carplan Engine Starter. Just spray into air filter or air inlet manifold at short range to aid starting.
Carplan Engine Starter 300ml £1.79

Selmar Mini Turbo Battery Charger 4 amp RMS output. Suitable for 12 volt lead acid batteries... **£8.99**

Polco EQ88.2 Easystart Quickboost Economy Jump Leads 8' (2.4m) long x 2mm²... **£3.49**

Carplan Super De-icer Aerosol 600ml... **79p**

Carplan Lock De-icer Aerosol 25% extra 65ml... **69p**

RP6 Redex Petrol Treatment for lower lead petrol 250ml... **£3.79**

B&Q Antifreeze and Summer Coolant 5ltr... **£5.49**

KEEP DRY IN THE WET
Tarpaulin. Suitable for car, motorcycle and temporary roof-cover etc.
Mangers Multi-Purpose Tarpaulin 4.47m x 3.51m (14'8" x 11'5") £10.99

Marley Roofing felt 10m x 1m Plain Finish BS747 14kg... **£5.49**

Aquaseal 40 Heavy Duty Waterproofing for roofs and concrete ponds 5 litres... **£14.29**

Mangers 'Stop that Leak' Black or Aluminium colours. Sprayable asphalt mastic 500ml... **£6.49**

KEEP YOUR STEPS & PATHS SAFE & CLEAR
Readymix Ground Rock Salt. For ice and snow clearing.
12.5kg £1.89 25kg £3.29

Wellington Boots (various sizes)... **£9.99**

AT B&Q

DAMAGED PIPES REPAIRED IN MINUTES
Arctic Spray 2 Pipe Freezer Starter Kit 200g. Enables you to extend or repair pipe work without draining down or turning off mains.
Arctic Spray 2 Pipe Freezer Starter Kit £7.25

Copper Tube 15mm x 2m length... **£2.85**

15mm x 3m length... **£3.45**

15mm x 3m length (pack of 10)... **£31.95** (Sizes may vary by store)

Solder-Ring Copper Couplings 15mm (pack of 10)... **£2.19**

Solder-Ring Copper Elbows 15mm (pack of 10)... **£3.29**

Self Plumb M522 Burst Pipe Clamp. Suitable for 15mm to 28mm pipes... **£2.99**

KEEP THE HEAT IN
Supawrap Loft Insulation. An effective way to save money on heating bills.
Supawrap Loft Insulation

4" (100mm) thick x 370mm wide x 8m long (R 2.7) OR 6" (150mm) thick x 370mm wide x 5.33m long (R 4.05) **£4.99** per roll

B&Q Cylinder Jacket 36" x 48" (900mm x 450mm) Saves on water heating costs... **£4.25**

B&Q Self Adhesive Vinyl Foam Draught Excluder 5m length. For windows or internal doors... **89p**

Mangers Radiator Reflector 4m x 50cm. For insulation and heat reflection behind radiators... **£5.49**

PREVENT FROST DAMAGE
Jempair JA3 Greenhouse and Conservatory 2kW Electric Fan/Heater. Thermostatically controlled heater only uses electricity when the temperature falls below the level set. May be used as a fan in summer.
Jempair JA3 Greenhouse and Conservatory 2kW Electric Fan/Heater £37.95

Larch Lap Fence Panel 6' x 6'... **£16.49**

Larch Lap Fence Post 8' x 3" x 3"... **£6.49**

Supamix Post-Set. Instant foundation for fence and gate posts 25kg... **£3.99**

OPEN 8AM TO 8PM
Open Monday to Saturday 8am to 8pm. Our Scottish stores are also open Sundays 9am to 6pm.

ORDER BY PHONE
Just phone your local B&Q, place your order and we'll deliver free.

FREE DELIVERY
Any item purchased from B&Q DIY Supercentres can be delivered free anywhere in Mainland UK, Northern Ireland, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey.

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE RING 081-200 0200 Over 275 DIY Supercentres nationwide.

Offers are subject to availability. Stocks shown are approximate. All prices include V.A.T. Prices may vary in Northern Ireland and B&Q DEPOT. Some of our smaller Supercentres may not have the full range of products, please phone to check before travelling.

Slovenia seeking a 'peaceful divorce'

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ZAGREB AND DESSA TREVIAN IN BELGRADE

SLOVENIA stepped up its threats yesterday to abandon the increasingly fragile Yugoslav federation when Jancz Drnovsek, its representative on Yugoslavia's state presidency, said that "Slovenia can no longer live and work in this state".

Mr Drnovsek, returning from an international economic conference in Davos, Switzerland, said: "If some parts of Yugoslavia want the army as it is, they can have it; but in that case, other parts of Yugoslavia will no longer wish to co-operate with this state."

He said that in such a case Slovenia would have no alternative but "to negotiate a peaceful agreement to separate itself from Yugoslavia".

The Yugoslav army has been accused of being too closely involved in politics.

Mr Drnovsek's remarks have been interpreted widely as meaning that Slovenia has now decided that there is no point in negotiating even a confederation and that its only future lies outside Yugoslavia.

Jozse Pucnik, leader of the Demos ruling coalition, was even more explicit. He said that, by June, Slovenia would secede and that at the forthcoming meeting of the Yugoslav presidency on Friday, it would initiate talks on a "peaceful divorce".

Clearly inspired by increasing Western condemnation of the Yugoslav army and Serbia, the Slovenes see the present as the right time to negotiate secession. Milan Kucan, the Slovene president, will go to Belgrade with a firm mandate from his government and parliament to do that.

Mr Drnovsek accused Borislav Jovic, the Yugoslav president who is a Serb, of overstepping his competence and said that he was no longer acting in the best interests of the presidency.

Croatia is insisting on the removal of Yugoslavia's minister of defence and chief of staff, whom it claims are responsible for a campaign to overthrow the republic's democratically elected leadership.

Warren Zimmerman, the American ambassador to Yugoslavia, arrived in Zagreb yesterday indicating increasing Western concern over the possibility of a head-on collision between Croatia and the Yugoslav army.

Both the United States and Britain have warned Yugoslavia that, while they are in favour of it remaining a single state, they cannot accept military intervention as a means of holding it together.

Many observers here believe that these warnings played a crucial role in defining tension last week when a military crackdown on Croatia appeared inevitable.

But in Belgrade yesterday, the Yugoslav military renewed its call for the arrest of Martin Speglj, the Croatian defence minister, whom they have accused of plotting terrorism.

Finland's links with Kremlin strained

From OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI

THE usually cordial relations between Finland and the Soviet Union are under strain. The Soviet attitude to the Baltic republics, the crime generated by the Soviet Union's economic distress and the collapse of the ruble have all affected Finland.

Baltic conscripts fleeing from the Soviet military have reminded Finns that any serious trouble in their giant eastern neighbour means a serious refugee problem for themselves. They are uneasy about the dangers created by real hunger just behind the frontier, only a few miles from their affluent country.

Finland traditionally has been wary of Soviet refugees, but it is difficult to turn them away, especially if they belong to the several minority nationalities historically related to the Finns. The Baltic republics' deserters are allowed to stay for a minimum of six months.

Officially, relations at government and presidential level have remained good. President Koivisto has emphasised several times that the Baltics have to settle their differences with Moscow through negotiations.

The public, however, has followed the events in the Baltic with intense interest. Public sympathy and private help have increased rapidly.

Former FBI agent is jailed for spying

From REUTER IN LOS ANGELES

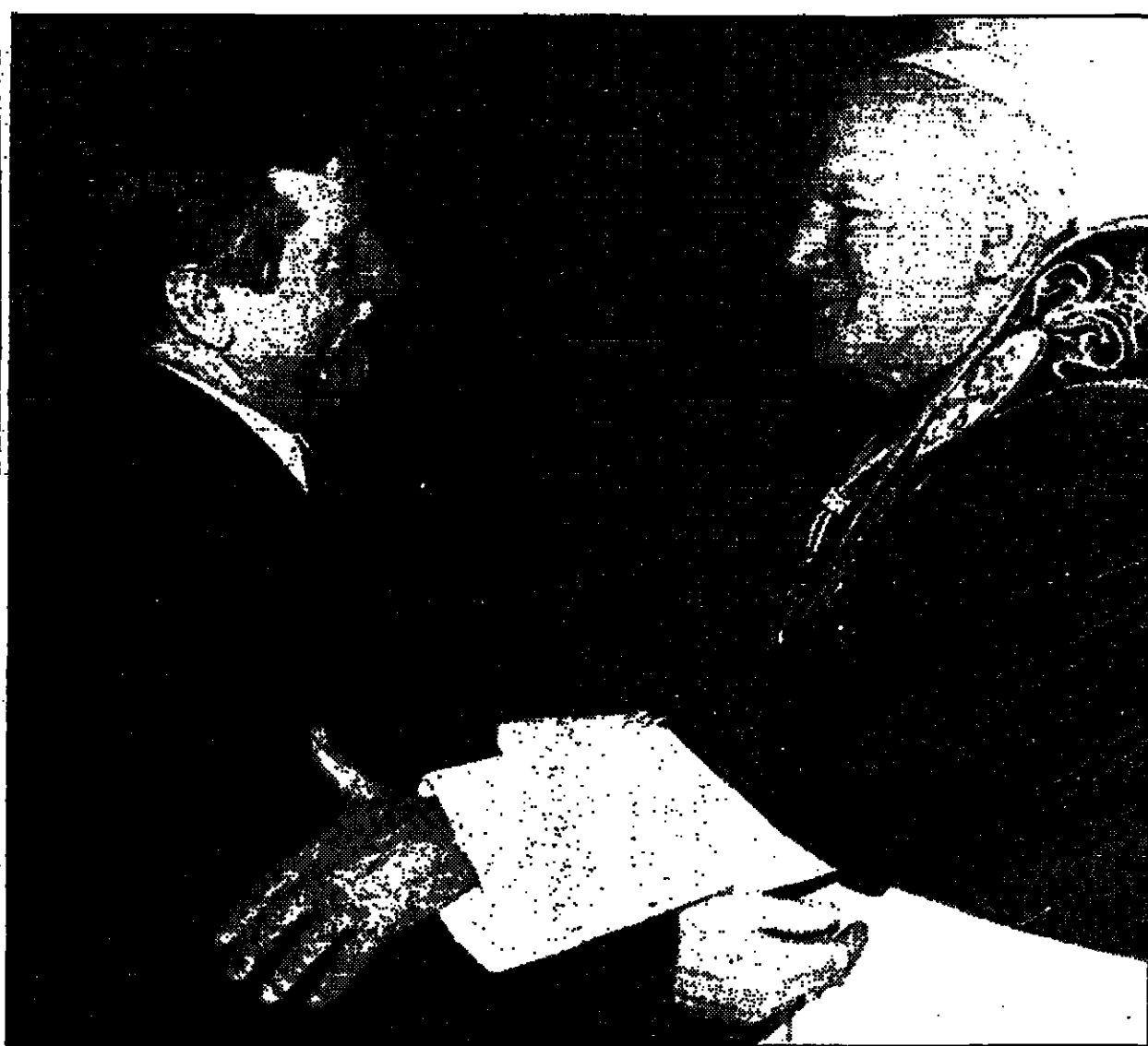


Miller, "bumbling agent" who faced demotion

A FORMER FBI agent, who was perpetually in financial difficulties, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for supplying secret documents to a Soviet spy in exchange for sex and promises of money.

Judge Robert Takasugi, in passing sentence, said Richard Miller had betrayed a national trust.

It was the third trial for Miller, aged 53, described by his former colleagues as a "bumbling agent" who faced demotion. He was arrested on October 2, 1984. His first trial ended with a deadlocked jury. At the second trial, he was sentenced to life but the verdict was overturned.



Old friends: the Pope warmly greeting President Lech Walesa at the Vatican yesterday. The Polish president, in Rome on his first foreign trip as head of state, thanked the Pope for helping their homeland move towards democracy (Reuters reports from Rome). "The Polish Pope played an enormous role in these changes," he said after a

private 45-minute meeting, crediting the Pope's 1979 trip to Poland with providing the spark for the rise of the Solidarity trade union movement. "Solidarity became the byword for the rebirth of Poland," said Mr Walesa, who became Poland's first democratically elected president in December. Referring to Mr Walesa, the Pope

said: "That courage, that determination, that hope and ... those prayers, have produced fruit." Poland, the Pope said, now had to assume its proper place among the nations of Europe. It needed understanding and co-operation from industrialised nations which should be lenient with Warsaw's foreign debt.

Russian radio may be silenced

From ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

RADIO Russia could be banned from the airwaves because of its outspoken attacks on the Soviet central authority's policy in the Baltic republics, the chairman of the independent TV and radio company predicted yesterday.

Oleg Poptsov claimed that the station, which has been reduced to broadcasting on just one of its three frequencies, was a prime target for government conservatives, including President Gorbachev, who wanted to silence their opposition.

Mr Poptsov said: "We remind the president too much of the original programme of renewal which he introduced to try to solve our political and social problems. The government has sidestepped the original programme, and are moving towards a totalitarian regime. The eagerness to work has been cut down with the help of tanks and military patrols."

The Russian Federation's government, headed by the radical Boris Yeltsin, yesterday increased the political stakes surrounding the future of the popular radio station by saying that it would take "extraordinary steps to protect its sovereign right and constitutional duty to inform the population".

The Moscow-based Radio Russia, which began broadcasting 50 days ago, is one of several outspoken media outlets which have claimed to be threatened by the Soviet government.

A spokesman for the Soviet state radio and television company, Gostelradio, denied that Radio Russia was being made the victim of a political censorship.

Leading article, page 13

Third priest murdered in Moscow crime wave

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE young dean of a central Moscow church, Father Serafim Shlykov, has been found battered to death in the flat where he was living temporarily. Police say he was bound and gagged and then struck several times on the head with a blunt object. They say the motive was probably robbery. A radio, video recorder, cassettes and money were missing.

An official report of Father Shlykov's murder, distributed by Tass, said the priest, who was 32, had fallen victim to the Moscow crime wave in which flat burglaries figure prominently.

Unofficial church sources cast doubt on this account, however. Father Shlykov is the third priest to meet a violent death in the Moscow area in the past five months. In the autumn, Father Aleksandr Men was found murdered in woods near Moscow after he had set out to conduct an early morning service. The investigation into the killing is still in progress, but police said that they believed robbery to be the motive.

Many of the priest's followers, however, suspect a political motive. Father Men, whose parish was close to the town of Zagorsk 50 miles from Moscow, had a large and devoted following among the Moscow intelligentsia who travelled miles to talk to him and receive his blessing.

Last month, a second priest, Father Lazar Solnyshko, was killed in his flat in central Moscow. He was another popular priest who devoted himself to charitable work in orphanages and hospitals. Again, police said that the motive was robbery, although some suspected a political aspect because he was a member of the church commission investigating Father Men's death.

A report published last week in *Izvestia*, the government

newspaper, claimed that Father Solnyshko was a homosexual and alleged he was "not too particular about the men he invited back to his flat". On the night he was murdered, he was seen returning to his flat with two men, neither of whose identity has yet been established.

So far, police have said only that the motive for Father Shlykov's death was also robbery. They reported the missing goods and money and noted that he had recently spent a year at the Russian Orthodox monastery in Jerusalem, suggesting that he would have had access to foreign goods.

Priests may be especially vulnerable to violent robbery in Russia at present because they would be expected to

have icons and other religious art, which commands large sums on the black market. Even so, Moscow's crime rate, while rising, still bears no comparison with that of big cities in the United States, and the suspicion of a political motive has not been convincingly excluded.

The latest murder will only fuel speculation. The combination of robbery, moral weakness (as in the case of Father Solnyshko) and politics is familiar terrain to the KGB. The enhanced status of the organisation in recent months, in connection with the campaign against crime and corruption, may have given some sections the boldness to revert to methods and objectives familiar from the pre-perestroika age.

£25m facelift for the garden at Versailles

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN VERSAILLES

AN AMBITIOUS plan to restore the garden of Versailles in the spirit conceived by Louis XIV, at a cost of about 250 million francs (£25 million), was unveiled yesterday.

Jack Lang, the minister of culture, has appointed the architect Pierre-André Lablaude to implement the 20-year project in consultation with Jean-Pierre Babelon, the director of the Versailles museum. M Lablaude is the first architect to be given sole responsibility for the gardens since the French revolution.

Architectural experts agree that the redesign is long overdue. The catalyst for the grandiose project was, however, the dramatic storm last February in which about 1,500 trees at Versailles and the neighbouring garden of Trianon were uprooted.

M Lablaude says he does not think the expenditure is extravagant in spite of the austere mood in France, as a result of the Gulf war. "I believe that the gardens for many people are a strong dose of optimism and that one must carry on with this project," he said.

The first stage of the plan, which will be carried out later this year, will involve chopping down about 250 rotten or storm-damaged trees in the woods of the Parterre du Nord, immediately behind the chateau. About 400 other trees will be preserved and another 800 will be planted.

Statues in front of the wood have been covered with canvas hoods to protect them from falling branches. A chestnut tree fell on a 1674 statue evoking "the spirit of Asia" last year and broke it into 30 pieces. M Lablaude said a large number of trees and hedges in the Jardin Francois of the Trianon would be replaced this year. He hoped the renovation of this area, where Marie Antoinette used to walk with her children, would revive public interest in the Trianon pavilions.

The number of visitors to the Versailles chateau increased by 9 per cent last year, while the number visiting the Trianon fell by about 15 per cent. At least four million people are thought to visit Versailles each year.

M Lablaude said that the renovation programme aimed to follow the designs of Le Nôtre, the Sun King's landscape gardener, where possible. In some cases, however, later plans such as Louis XVI's delicate Jardin Anglais

would be respected and renewed.

"For the visitor or foreign tourist Versailles means first of all Louis XIV," he said. The architect said he would seek to rectify "historic errors" such as the planting of dangerous chestnut trees in the Parterre du Nord woods last century. He would also try to emphasise the "traditional essences of Versailles", namely oak and lime trees, in his replanting programme.

M Babelon said that the curators of Versailles decided to stagger the renovation over 20 years "so we don't have any brutality to the landscape". About 11.5 million francs will be spent on the park this year and six million francs will be spent on the restoration of the fountains.

Former leaders in fond reunion

From REUTER IN LOS ANGELES

MARGARET Thatcher and Ronald Reagan hugged and kissed each other as old friends on Monday, and Mrs Thatcher admitted she missed being in power. The former prime minister is in the Los Angeles area on a private visit and will attend Mr Reagan's 80th birthday party in Beverly Hills today. They became good friends when they were both in office.

The reunion took place at the Reagan Library in Los Angeles. The former president and his wife, Nancy, took Mrs Thatcher and her husband, Denis, on a guided tour of the building. During the tour Mrs Thatcher was asked by a bystander if she missed being prime minister. "Yes," she replied. "After 10½ or 11 years in office, who wouldn't?"

Mrs Thatcher, who was prime minister when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait and was a fierce supporter of President Bush and the international trade and economic embargo against Iraq, was also asked about the Gulf war. "Any tyrant must know this is the response with which (his actions) would be met," she said. Mr Reagan described Saddam Hussein as "a threat to civilisation".

A NATION WITHOUT A STATE

More than twenty million Kurds live in Kurdistan, a land arbitrarily divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and USSR.

THEY ARE THE LARGEST NATION WITHOUT A STATE

For decades the Kurds have been denied their human and political rights. In Turkey, the Kurds have suffered mass deportation, torture and official denial of their existence. Since 1980, 30,000 Kurds have been killed in Iran. In Syria, Kurds have been stripped of citizenship and deported. In Iraq, persecution of the Kurds culminated in the 1988 chemical bombing of Halabja in which thousands of men, women and children were murdered. Despite these abuses, the Kurds have retained their unique sense of identity and their linguistic and cultural cohesion.

The regional states have been neither capable nor willing to deal with the Kurdish issue.

The invasion of Kuwait, a nation of three quarters of a million people, has been condemned by the international community. The present crisis in the Gulf should not obscure other injustices in the Middle East. The plight of the Kurdish people is a glaring example of such injustice. Their suffering has, until now, failed to arouse a response from the world.

Whatever solutions are considered, peace and stability will not be achieved in the region unless the Kurdish issue is addressed. The Kurds insist that their aspirations be linked to and form an integral part of any just and lasting solution of the current crisis in the Middle East.

THE KURDS DEMAND

1. That their representatives be guaranteed a place at any discussions on the future order of the Middle East.
2. That an independent Kurdish state be established.

Free Kurdistan Campaign

Arbeitskreis gegen den Volkermord in Kurdistan (Germany)
British-Kurdish Friendship Society (UK)
CAK (UK)
Federation of Kurdish Associations in Sweden
Kurdish Academy (Germany)
Kurdish Community in Canada
Kurdish Cultural Centre (UK)
Kurdish Lawyers Union
Kurdish Monitoring Group (UK)
Kurdish National Congress of North America
Kurdish Relief Aid (US)

Kurdish Society in Manchester
Kurdish Writers Union (Sweden)
Kurdish Writers Union (UK)
Mamosta y Kurd (Sweden)
Medico International (Germany)
Network Human Rights (Berlin)
Platforma Yekitiya Ala Rizgariye
Rizgari (Liberation) Party
The Kurdish National Congress Appeal Group (Holland)
The Kurdish Radio (Australia)
Weşanên Celadet Bedirxan (Australia)

For further information please ring
071-833 1201
Fax No. 071-833 1215
BM Box 3810 London WC1N 3XX

Ratings fever sweeps American viewers

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

WHEN psychopaths and radioactive spaghetti dominate America's television screens, you know the sweeps month has come around again. Sweeps is the cut-throat exercise in which the ratings companies gauge the audiences for each station, setting rates for the advertisers who keep the industry in business.

With stations' livelihoods depending on the audience ratings, the networks and their local affiliates throw their usual bland diet to the winds during the February sweeps month, and opt unashamedly for the lurid, the bizarre and the salacious.

Now that the traditional broadcasting industry is facing hard times, this sweeps season amounts to the "most intensely competitive month in television history", as one expert described it.

The three big networks have abandoned the usual uplifting family viewing and replaced it with "fact-based" dramas

depicting the darker side of American life. NBC, for example, is offering *Love, Lies and Murder*, a four-hour "chilling story of the abuse of family trust" — about a 14-year-old who murders her mother on the orders of her father.

The same network has also dreamed up *If Looks Could Kill*, the tale of Maria Hanson, a New York model whose face was mutilated four years ago by a rejected suitor who happened to be a cosmetician. "I can give you beauty and I can take it away," he says. The clichés hit a peak when the bleeding Miss Hanson is being wheeled into the operating theatre. "Someone said she's a model," remarks a nurse. "Not any more," the doctor replies. The film attempts the obligatory moral lesson required by the advertising sponsors, when the actress playing Miss Hanson concludes: "I guess I've learned a lot about people."

For ingenuity in exciting

viewers at sweeps time, nothing competes with the local television news and the syndicated talk shows.

From Los Angeles to New York, intrepid teams suddenly uncover shocking secrets in their metropolitan midst. "Time in for the truth, on *Killer Wire*," Channel Two, the CBS station in New York, proclaimed. The station's team had discovered a "growing public hazard" in the form of exposed wires on lamp-posts and traffic lights around the city. A close examination of their series revealed that it was based on the electrocution of a single person several months earlier.

The rival Channel Seven unearthed, with breathless urgency, the hideous threat of the radioactive pasta. This was said to be a shipment sold by a food importing company that did not comply with some obscure federal regulations.

As if there was not enough real crime in New York,

during a sweeps month last year the same station grilled a New York City detective on his theories about the stabbing to death of a teenage girl. It turned out that the victim in question was the fictional Laura Palmer of *Twin Peaks*.

Other recent sweeps topics have included the secret sex lives of suburban housewives, problems of battered lesbians, and "Debbie Duz Downs", a report on a topless doughnut shop in Colorado.

The king of the sweeps business is Geraldo Rivera, the "investigative" reporter from New York who has made his name probing the dark side of America. So far, he has not managed to better the prime-time special on satanic cults he delivered on NBC last year. This featured, among other things, detailed accounts of skinning human babies.

Mr Rivera has since promised to forego "deviant behaviour and kinky sex" in his reports.

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

Jan Swanepoel, for the prosecution, rejected the charges and said there was sufficient evidence for the case to go ahead. He said there was a case of common purpose against Mrs Mandela, which meant that although she may not actually have carried out kidnaps

● **Township fighting:** Soldiers from the South African Defence Force were sent into the Bekkersdal black township west of Johannesburg yesterday in an attempt to stop black factional fighting in which eight people have been killed since Saturday, police said.

Meanwhile, the independent Radio 702 reported that Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister, visited the township yesterday with Walter Sisulu, the leader of the ANC. (AFP).



FROM GAVIN BELL IN CAPE TOWN

Launching the campaign yesterday, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the minister of constitutional development, said it was a non-partisan attempt to instil the culture of democracy in the face of a disconcertingly high level of violence. The initial three months

Dr Viljoen agreed that it might

Whether the propaganda blitz defuses political and racial tensions remains to be seen, but Dr Viljoen said President de Klerk's decision to repeal discriminatory

Dr Viljoen rejected demands by the African National Congress for the release of all political prisoners and reaffirmed government opposition to the group's call for an elected assembly to draw up a new constitution.

FROM REUTER IN HARARE

The Zimbabwe government said in a statement: "The frontline states' summit will focus attention on the current developments in South Africa. They will discuss the

President de Klerk announced plans last week to repeal by mid-year the key laws buttressing apartheid, including the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Population Registration Act, which had been the target of a worldwide campaign.

President al-Bashir, who seized power in 1989 after a brief interlude of democracy, signed into law last Thursday a new criminal code which applies sharia (Islamic law) in the north but not in the south. (Reuters)

Annecy — A German skier trying to jump across a gorge fell 180 ft to his death at the Vallée Blanche in the French Alps, police reported. Rescue workers spent several hours trying to retrieve the body of Wilhelm Franck, aged 51, who was thought to have died immediately on striking the icy rocks. (AP)

Islamabad — Floodwaters that inundated a wide swathe of south-western Afghanistan and neighbouring Iran have made more than 3,000 Afghan families homeless. In Iran, helicopters rescued more than 2,000 people after floods swept through 120 villages and made 30,000 people homeless. (Reuters)

Hong Kong — Armed robbers made off with HK\$20 million (£1.3 million) worth of jewellery from a shop, the latest in a spate of crimes before the Chinese New year. Police said four men and two women, posing as customers, entered the shop separately, and held up five staff with pistols before making off with the jewellery. (Reuters)

Then come and join a truly professional, friendly and rapidly expanding publisher in superb offices overlooking Hyde Park. Kensington Publications produce prestigious titles for The United Nations, The Chartered Institute of Bankers and The Commonwealth Secretariat, amongst others. A limited number of vacancies exist for successful, articulate and experienced people who are capable of negotiating at senior management level.

APPLY TO NIGEL RUDDIN 071 630 5596

If you have the confidence and communication skills to deal with international clients by telephone then please call **Philip Armstrong on 071-240-1515.**

Philip & Tacey

their elegant Mayfair shop. You must have top retail experience, possess artistic and administrative qualities and have a stable career history in a similar meter. Excellent presentation coupled with an ability to deal with both junior staff and prestigious clients are all essential. This is a demanding and challenging role with

(Fax: 071-491 2875)
Recruitment Consultants

The job:
Recruitment, interviewing and briefing of EFL teachers
Preparation of teaching materials
Coordination of courses throughout the 35 UK teaching centres
General administrative duties
Generous salary negotiable with excellent prospects
Have numerous career potential for candidate of real ability

Please write with CV to: Anglophiles Academic,
34 North End Road, London W14 0SH

three years relevant marketing experience, possibly but not necessarily in the field of fundraising for a major charity or charity fundraising consultant, together with three years management experience - preferably in a different organisation. A person younger than thirty-five years is unlikely to possess the necessary experience and maturity.

Please write with full CV to:
William Rathbone, Director, RUKBA,
6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8RL

[illegible]

Limited

Hill Publishing, a rapidly expanding company, urgently require a capable advertising **COPYWRITER**. Responsibilities include co-ordinating day-to-day running of the office; recruitment, training and supervision of staff; P.A./R.A. support for two directors. Excellent type, salary and expansion opportunities. Essential: a high degree of initiative and responsibility. Knowledge of languages useful. Salary negotiable. Enquiries and willingness to work overseas are as important as experience. Contact Helen Davis on 081 625 4460. No agencies.

Take advantage of a unique opportunity to meet American Camp Directors and find a position to suit you:

- Free London-New York return
- Free time for independent travel
- Right
- 1-1 Visa sponsorship
- Pocket money
- Board & lodging at Camp

We are looking for people to work with children for 5 weeks in June/August, as general counselors, kitchen/maintenance staff (students only), teachers, sports, crafts, etc.

Applications will be accepted and available to leave in January 1991.

You must be 18 by June 1 1991 and have the following conditions:

- If you are interested come along to:

CAMP AMERICA LONDON RECRUITMENT DAY
 Saturday 28 February 1991 and Sunday 1 March 1991
 Kensington Town Hall, Hamilton St, London W1
 10.00am to 4.00pm.

We are also holding fairs in Manchester and Edinburgh, for details please telephone 071-256 1408.

If you wish to secure a position on the spot you must bring: a passport-size photograph, a verifiable character reference, any sports certificates, and a current criminal record reference, £25.00 first deposit (a further £10.00 will be due later) if you are placed.

If you cannot attend the fair but are still interested in working on camps, send a postcard for a prospectus to:

Dept NT723A, Camp America, 34 Queens Gate, London SW7 5HR.

**If you have
management or
marketing experience
or have run your own
business we would like
to hear from you.
Ring 0941-102996 or send
C.V. to Managing Director
HUTTON TRADING
10 Greycoat Place
London SW1P 1SB.**

Offices situated near Kings Cross

For Job Description and Application Forms: Andrew Ellington, Winged Fellowship Trust, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD. Tel: 071 833 2584. Fax: 071 278 0370.

Closing date for applications 22nd February.

Major Oil Company seeking to expand international London seek 2 secretaries 25-35 years to join their highly motivated operations team. Previous office shifts are essential incl. weekend and night based systems, display w/ WP, reports, meetings & general admin using Lotus 123. The post offers good promotion prospects, access to state technology & a congenial working environment. Please to: **Foreign Lge**
071-937 5311
CENTACON
Immigration Consultants

High flying technical communications Co. Seek a like minded individual to assist in the elevation of their company profile.
D.T.P. experience advantageous.
Marketing qualifications essential

FOX

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

2nd Floor, 174 Beccles Street, London W1P 6PS.
01-237-436 5552 or South Ave. 01-434 5926

OPPORTUNITIES
Opportunities have arisen
several highly motivated
individuals to train with one
the top UK Financial
institutions in one of the most
lucrative areas of finance.
For details, phone:
JULIAN GIBBS
on
071 493 6232
(West End Office)
THE ALL GROUP

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES
We need enthusiastic, energetic and intelligent people 21 and over, to sell space on an established unique product. Full training given. No experience required. Commission and guaranteed weekly wage.
Contact us now on
071 408 2471

**PERSONNEL
MANAGER**
£18-25,000 a year
IBM qualified Personnel
Mgr required by
solicitors in WC2 for
busy generalist role
Call Barbara Sharwood
Rec Cons

Today's Commons debate on science has been preceded by much wailing and gnashing of teeth. The government has been accused by the pressure group Save British Science of arbitrary, ill-considered cuts that will do irreparable damage to research, careers and the motivation of young scientists, while the education secretary Kenneth Clarke says the problems stem from "reckless overcommitment" by the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC).

Strong language, but who is right? Is Britain's future being threatened by a government careless of the source of future prosperity, as the Labour party will argue in tonight's debate, or are the scientists simply acting out the familiar rituals of a threatened interest group?

The immediate prospects for some are gloomy. The SERC is also meeting today, desperately trying to make the savings of £20 million needed to balance its books. That will almost certainly mean closure for an important instrument in nuclear physics, a science in which Britain has been prominent since the days of

Nigel Hawkes, science editor, questions the need for more government spending on research

Should we stoke up the white heat?

Rutherford. There will be delays for a couple of telescopes and for other big projects. Jodrell Bank radio telescope may also face closure. These are painful and damaging decisions.

For reasons that will become clear, the SERC has portrayed these short-term problems as part of a long-term trend. In fact, this year's poor financial settlement followed two relatively good years, and the SERC will still have an annual budget of £451 million. Together with the other research councils and the Universities Funding Council, a total of £1.6 billion of our money will be spent on basic science. Do scientists really believe that this is too little, and if so, why?

In absolute terms, basic science has not done too badly since 1979, though much depends upon whether you believe that it is

subject to higher inflation than is measured by the retail price index. This year's settlement, which the education department creatively interprets as being worth 6 per cent, falls well short of matching the inflation rate of 9.3 per cent; but over the period since 1979 real spending has increased by more than 20 per cent.

International comparisons, however, make a different point. While Britain spends a declining proportion of its GNP on science, in Italy, France, Germany and Japan science accounts for an increasing share of national wealth. In these countries, research spending has been rising several times more rapidly than in Britain. As a result, say the critics, they and not Britain will establish the basis for creating the industries of the future.

The argument is familiar, but

far from self-evident. In the 1960s Britain was generous to science, spending considerably more than similar countries did. So far as can be measured, this had no effect whatever on economic performance or on the creation of new science-based businesses. Those who argue for greater government spending on basic science in tonight's debate should explain why it will achieve now what it did not achieve then.

These longer-term issues overshadow but should not obscure the immediate problems. They principally affect the SERC and the Medical Research Council, both of which are being forced to make cuts. Both were slow to recognise the impact of inflation when it became clear last year that it was running well above the level predicted by the Treasury. Instead

of trimming their programmes last July, as other councils did, the SERC and the MRC decided to plough on. The SERC evidently calculated that if it got into trouble it could obtain more money from the Treasury. This is why Kenneth Clarke now accuses it of recklessness.

Rowing back is difficult because the SERC is locked into a number of big commitments, foremost among which is Cern, the European Council for Nuclear Research in Geneva. The subscription alone costs £60 million a year, and having spent that, the council is committed to another £20 million or so for experiments. Paying the subscription and neglecting the experiments would be like joining a golf club and then baulking at the price of a set of clubs.

This limits the possible cuts to

domestic programmes, and makes them harsher. Scientists with modest needs who are asked to do without when the better part of £80 million is channelled to Geneva every year are getting understandably testy. More cash from the government would ease their problems, but it is wrong to pretend that Britain's long-term future depends on it.

The issue that the debate ought to address has nothing to do with the government or the SERC, but with the reluctance of British industry to spend enough money on research. Here foreign comparisons are telling. British industry's research spending amounts to less than 1 per cent of GDP, while Germany spends 1.6 per cent and Japan 2 per cent. It is this money, not that spent supporting academic researchers in universities, which

provides the basis for new products. One reason why Britain does so little research is that industry sets impossible payoff targets. A study in 1988 showed that capital invested in a British research and development project with a ten-year payoff was expected to produce a return almost three times as high as an equivalent Japanese programme. While the Japanese were content with a payoff of 7.6 per cent, and the Germans with 14.3 per cent, in Britain a huge 24.8 per cent projected return was needed to justify the research.

A nation that sets the hurdles so high denies itself a wide range of investment options, argues Ivan Yates, a former deputy chief executive of British Aerospace, in the current issue of *Physics World*. One reason is high interest rates, another the "short-termism" that bedevils the City.

All this is not to say that basic science is unimportant or that we should allow it to wither; but other aspects of the issue, such as industrial research and the teaching of science in schools, are just as important. They too deserve to be defended in tonight's debate.

Martin Jacques

Labour's chink of small change

Labour's timidity over the Gulf war is understandable yet symptomatic. Timidity imbues everything Labour does. The disappearance of Mrs Thatcher has made no difference. Labour still drives with one eye constantly on the rear-view mirror. It has no sense of intellectual project or historic mission. Getting elected and not committing *faux pas* have become its dominant concerns.

How Labour got into this sorry state is a central theme in David Marquand's book *The Progressive Dilemma* (Heinemann). The Labour party was for a long time a peculiar beast. No other socialist party was such a direct product of organised labour. This was at once a strength and a weakness. The expanding industrial working class gave Labour a growing electoral basis and historical confidence. At the same time, it was the cause of its insularity.

Labour dominated the industrial heartlands, but its relationship with those outside was never close. On two occasions, 1945 and 1966, Labour won sizeable support outside its natural province, but this always proved short-lived. The culture of labourism, rooted in the labour interest, or specifically the trade-union interest, excluded the possibility of anything different. This culture was corporate rather than outward-looking, defensive rather than expansive, a product of the "us and them" mentality.

Middle-class intellectuals were welcome to join the Labour party, but were always outsiders. It was like a club with different grades of membership: full membership came only with dirty hands, union card and masculinity. The most positive aspect of labourism was its solidarity; its most unattractive was its exclusivity.

But what gave Labour its confidence and drew intellectuals into its ranks, what gave it some electoral ballast has long been in decline. The class that Labour rested on has shrunk and faded, and up to a point Labour has recognised this. It has jettisoned the old-style socialist doctrine indecisively associated with the working class. Under Neil Kinnock, the process of distancing Labour from the unions which it

sprang from has begun. But in another sense, Labour has barely changed. Its old culture lives on, even though the class that engendered it has largely evaporated.

There is something eerie about the present-day Labour party. An effort has been made to move beyond a class-based existence, yet the habits, norms, conventions and assumptions of the old labourist culture are undisturbed.

Intellectuals are still regarded as outsiders, viewed with suspicion rather than valued as an asset. Considerable intellectual resources were potentially at Labour's disposal for the party's policy review, yet it ignored them because only "one of us" was to be trusted. The result was predictable: a review lacking intellectual imagination, energy and originality.

And what is true on the intellectual plane is also the case socially. In the past Labour rarely attempted to engage in serious dialogue with groups outside the working class, but the shrinking of that class means that Labour must establish dialogue with a whole variety of groups. As yet there is little evidence of this.

We have moved into a new era, characterised by the decline of the structures and mentality of large-scale production, of the old collectivities, and a world in which everyone knew his or place and identity.

Labour's problem is that half of it is still operating in that old world. At the level of doctrine, it has changed, but at the level of culture, it is still buried in the past. If Labour is to succeed in this more heterogeneous world, it needs an open and pluralistic culture which enables it to do things it has never done before.

As David Marquand points out, the Tory party has not done particularly well either. The Thatcher revolution was conducted on a small and narrowing electoral base. It appeared successful because Labour did so much worse.

Now society is moving away from the over-simplifications of the Thatcher era. The opportunity for the centre-left is as great as ever — it still has an electoral majority — but the changes of the last decade have been too modest and rarely more than skin-deep.

Since the counter-offensive to liberate Kuwait was launched on January 17, the United Nations has taken a back seat. The Security Council authorised the use of force, and so long as the Iraqis refuse to withdraw, there is no room in which its peacemaking capability can operate. The Secretary-General's criticism of the bombing of traffic on the road between Iraq and Jordan and its welcome for Iraq's peace moves are personal responses. The Iranian initiative outside the framework of the UN, although Tehran has said frequently that Baghdad must comply with Security Council resolutions.

My guess is that President Rafsanjani's principle preoccupation, as the fighting moves towards its final phases, is to try to bring about a ceasefire before there is any question of a coalition campaign to occupy Iraq, topple Saddam and forcibly disarm the Iraqi military machine. For many reasons, such a prospect creates considerable alarm and anxiety within Iraq.

Meanwhile, it is not too early to learn lessons from the performance of the UN in the face of Saddam Hussein's aggression against Kuwait. For the first time since Korea in 1950 (a dubious precedent because of the absence of the Soviet Union from the UN Security Council at the time), the council has been able to take rapid and decisive action against an aggressor, with unanimity among its five permanent members.

This alone is convincing evidence that the cold war is over. In practice, it has meant that international political legitimacy has been conferred on individual states and groups of states acting in accordance with the council's resolutions.

Many have argued that sanctions, imposed for the first time since 1919 with no defections (as there were in the cases of Abyssinia in 1935-36 and Southern Rhodesia in 1965-79), should have been given more time to work, and that in future their imposition will be regarded simply as a cynical ploy to the use of force.

This goes too far. I would have liked to see sanctions given more time, but there were good reasons for accelerating the move to expel Iraq from Kuwait by force — the

The Gulf conflict has already altered the UN's future peacekeeping role, says Anthony Parsons



continuing rape of the victim, uncertainties in western public opinion and in the anti-Saddam coalition, the difficulty of maintaining an enormous military force on high alert in Saudi Arabia for several months — and there may be analogous arguments when aggression has to be confronted again.

However, all cases are different, and it would be a mistake to extrapolate too categorically from the present conflict. When Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands in 1982, Britain secured from the Security Council a mandatory demand for withdrawal (resolution 502), but we did not go on to table a sanctions resolution because we knew that in those bad old days, the Soviet Union would have vetoed it (having abstained on 502). If that invasion had happened today, I believe sanctions would have been imposed, including a naval and air supply

blockade of the Falklands. This would have been tough on the islanders, but it is difficult to see how the Argentine garrison could have lasted out.

Perhaps the most important lesson relates to the so-called "teeth" which the League of Nations lacked and which were greeted with such acclaim at the creation of the United Nations in 1944-45. We have learnt from this conflict that although they may have made sense to the war-time allies, they do not in the world of the 1990s. We are witnessing a military operation almost unprecedented in terms of logistical effort, conceptual and operational planning, meticulous co-ordination and unfettered command and control. The scale has been necessitated by the massive transfer in recent decades of sophisticated weaponry from the industrialised world to Iraq (in common with

many other third world dictatorships) — a situation that Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin did not envisage.

In these circumstances, it is frivolous to imagine the 15-member Security Council (which at present includes Cuba and the Yemen) making "plans for the application of armed force". There would never be agreement, still less a vestige of military security. It is equally bizarre to believe that the five-member military staff committee (United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China) could have undertaken "the strategic directions of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council" (Article 47) with anything like the speed and efficiency displayed by General Colin Powell and his allied commanders.

Like it or not, I conclude that if the United Nations is again to resort to arms as opposed to

deterrent action, it will have to forget about the military articles and act on the Kuwait precedent as enshrined in resolution 678, that is, the delegation to "member states" of authority to "use all necessary means" to implement its resolutions. The outcome of the present conflict will determine the attitude of the member countries, particularly the Soviet Union and China (who must have found it extremely difficult to bring themselves to give, in effect, such blanket authority to the United States and its allies) to acting the same way on future occasions. As an old UN hand, I was astonished that they were prepared to do so this time: it was a triumph for American diplomacy.

When fighting is over and Kuwait is liberated, there will be pressure from many quarters for the withdrawal of American and European forces and their replacement by UN peacekeepers. There is no doubt that such a move would diminish the political clamour, particularly from Iraq, for the departure from the region of "western imperialism".

However, the traditional form of UN peacekeeping, namely lightly armed forces removable at the whim of the parties to the dispute, will not do. The United Nations will have to create a new kind of force, which must constitute an adequate deterrent to further aggression. Such a force would be under the ultimate control of the Security Council, but would have the mandate, the national contingents (including, if necessary, Americans, Europeans and Arabs), and the military capability to resist attack, however serious. The force commander would be delegated authority to respond immediately to a threat, and the force would be irremovable except by a unanimous vote of the Security Council.

If I were the head of government of any Gulf state, I would settle for nothing less. Furthermore, such a force, if it worked, could act as a pattern for guaranteeing settlements of other important disputes, where the thin blue line of UN peacekeepers has hitherto proved inadequate.

Sir Anthony Parsons is a former British ambassador to Iran and the United Nations.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

A few weeks ago, I wrote of my despair at watching "ramblers" wend their earnest ways past my window. Even as I was writing, I felt a twinge of hypocrisy up and down my spine, the familiar stirrings of the affliction that carries off so many newspaper columnists.

A little voice in the back of my head was nagging me to admit that, in spite of my anti-rambler rantings, I too go for walks in the countryside and feel all the better for it. The verb "to walk", I realised, can be declined along the following lines: *I am walking. You are getting some exercise. He is rambling. We are braving the elements. You are freeling to death. They must be mad.*

Perhaps our mistake as a nation has been to classify walking in the countryside as leisure rather than unpaid labour. The British have never been dab hands at leisure. Our real enjoyments — slouching in front of the television, dawdling in hot baths, loafing idly through magazines — we affect to pool-poo. Meanwhile, all the most guesstimate chores — games of charades, the old-fashioned art of conversation, the brisk country walk — we contrive to regard as heaven-sent. Of these, the brisk country walk is by far the most onerous.

I am, I must now admit, the worst offender. I am one of those people who, just as everyone is settling down to watch a 1950s British feature film with Sam Kydd and that woman who

later turned up as something in *Crossroads* (or was it *Emmerdale Farm*?), rubs his hands together, beams his horrid beam, whinnies like a horse — "Bwaaaah!" — jogs from one foot to another and says "Who's for a walk then?"

Alas, precious little countryside is designed for walking over. The countryside around me, for instance, is jam-packed with ploughed fields. The odd field has a footpath clinging to its edge, just wide enough for a trick cyclist to squeeze along. One false move, and your right leg is knee-deep in ploughed field. From an upstairs window, we watch as in the distance gangs of lopsided walkers attempt to remove the mud from their boots with jerky kicks, resembling nothing so much as fire-form dance troupes of surgical-boot wearers.

At least it could be argued that our sort of countryside discourages walkers. In my experience, open countryside better suited to the solitary walker attracts such a heap of solitary walkers that one might just as well be in the midst of a shopping mall in Basingstoke. But whereas in the Basingstoke shopping mall each walker is happy to go about his business without a nod and a wink to all strangers, the countryside demands a particularly irksome form of camaraderie from all who pass by.

You are walking by yourself in the country. A hundred yards away, a stranger appears, walking towards you. A cloud of awkwardness and prevarication

descends. Etiquette demands the exchange of a "Hello". But when do you say it? If you say it at fifty yards' distance, how do you retain your rictus smile for the remaining minutes? If you decide to say it only ten yards away, where do you look in the meantime? Why is it that whenever you say "Hello", the stranger replies "Good afternoon", and whenever you say "Good afternoon", the stranger replies "Hello"? And what accounts for the peculiar empty feeling produced by such a disparity?

Alas, the nightmare has only just begun. The stranger is almost duty-bound to be walking with a dog, just large enough to be frightening, just small enough to be irritating. Sniff, sniff, grunt, growl, growl. The Dog Marketing Board, with secret agents everywhere, has put it about that its product, faithful and true, can see into the very heart of man. Not so: the dog is usually so easily fooled by your cack-handed pretence at fearlessness that within seconds he has switched allegiance, and you have become his new master.

As the stranger passes into the distance, you are left with his dog wagging triumphantly around your boots. The stranger trudges back, his forced grin making it quite clear that you alone are to blame for his dog's treachery.

From now on, perhaps we walkers should call ourselves ramblers. Say what you like about ramblers, at least they don't pretend to look as if they are enjoying themselves.

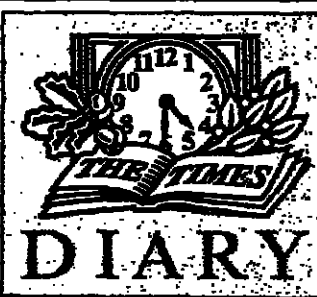
Upmanship and protocol

Has the Foreign Office exacted a terrible revenge for the slights, real or imagined, that it believes it suffered at the hands of Margaret Thatcher? Washingtonians are wondering why Mrs Thatcher did not stop off to George Bush on her way to Ronald Reagan's birthday party in California.

The former prime minister would apparently have been happy to see her friend the president, and it seems that the White House would have been happy to see her. However, British diplomatic advice — for which read the Foreign Office — is said to have been less than enthusiastic about such an encounter.

Americans are baffled as to why. They recall the meeting in Aspen, Colorado last August when Mrs Thatcher was the toughest advocate of standing up to Saddam Hussein and ensuring that he did not escape accountability for his crimes. Perhaps, Washington sources wonder, that is not the message London now wants Bush to hear. Or perhaps there is concern in Whitehall that Mrs Thatcher will steal the limelight from official British spokesmen, for in America she remains much better-known than either Douglas Hurd or John Major.

The official line is that there was no Whitehall pressure upon Mrs Thatcher to give the White House a wide berth, although it would be almost unprecedented for a visiting politician to be fitted at the White House without FO approval. In any case, says the British embassy in Washington, she will have an opportunity to renew acquaintance with the president when he accepts a "freedom medal" from him later this year, presumably after the



Television anchorman working long hours during the war continue to come up with tales to prove their prowess beyond the call of duty. This week, as he clocked on for his late-night shift, ITN presenter Nicholas Owen told his producer that he hoped he wasn't late: he had been unavoidably detained deputising as an evening paper boy in Redhill, Surrey, for his 16-year-old stepson, Daniel, stricken with tonsillitis.

Urrning its keep

England may have lost the Ashes, but the victorious Australians may be about to lose them too. The Cremation Society has called for the replacement of the trophy by something more up to date.

The society's interest in the matter is long-standing but little known, for the original Ashes obituary on the death of English cricket, printed in *The Sporting Times* of August 29, 1882, was written by Reginald Brooks, the son of the society's founder. At the time, cremation was banned in Britain and carried out in only four places in Europe. Brooks' obituary to English cricket, says the society in the latest issue of its quarterly journal, was part of the controversial campaign to persuade the government to change the law. It appears to have worked, for within 18 months the Home Office backed down and crema-

tions were allowed to proceed without fear of prosecution.

More than a century later, cremation is pre-eminent: two-thirds of all corpses are disposed of in this way. The fortunes of English cricket, alas, have been less sure, reaching their nadir in Perth earlier this week. A fresh obituary to English cricket is needed, suggests the society, with "a method of disposal of the corpse more in tune with the humour of the age". Suggestions please.

Con tricks

The governor of Holloway prison has invited a troupe of circus folk to entertain the inmates. Sue Broadway, artistic director of the circus Ra-Ra Zoo, and her team will be taking



their greasepaint and big top turns to the women's prison later this month for the first of a series of workshops. Prisoners will be shown how to perform acrobatic tricks and balancing acts but, not surprisingly, strict rules have been applied. "We are not allowed to do any tricks with fire," says the Australian-born Ms Broadway, whose family tree can be traced back to a female convict. "And

I'm not sure if we will be permitted to use the trampoline," she adds, with an eye on the height of the walls.

Other restrictions have been imposed too. "We usually juggle with knives, but in Holloway we have decided it would be better to use bats and a selection of fruit." More daringly, the troupe plans to teach Her Majesty's reluctant guests a series of rope tricks. But no, says Ms Broadway, "we won't be teaching them any Harry Houdini stuff, and we certainly won't be throwing any ropes over the wall."

Forces take heart

John Major is to undertake a morale-boosting trip to Germany next week to talk to the families of British service personnel in the Gulf. The prime minister confided his concern about the wives and children to Dame Vera Lynn at a lunch at Chequers last weekend.

As Norma Major entertained guests to a traditional roast beef meal, the prime minister took Dame Vera on one side and spoke movingly about the letters he had received from serving soldiers. "He was very aware of how cut off the soldiers feel," she says. "He said before his recent trip to the Gulf that he didn't feel it would serve any purpose. He said he wasn't sure the boys wanted the files of him out there. But he said he has had so many letters from soldiers who were sorry that they had missed meeting him that he realised that such things really matter to the troops."

Dame Vera says she was deeply impressed with the prime minister's sincerity and depth of feeling for the soldiers and their families. "I complimented him on having written to the wives of servicemen, and suggested that he should have some of them to tea at Downing Street. He told me we were going to Germany to visit them."



LIFE AFTER POLL TAX: 1

When Whitehall is not thinking about the Gulf, it is thinking about local government. While most other areas of government are simply consolidating late-Thatcherism, the poll tax faces the cabinet with a thundering great decision. The door of the environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, is spinning with delegations and lobbies pressing on him their pet ideas. He has set himself this spring for an initial announcement, and there is talk of a complete bill in the autumn.

So wide are the constitutional implications of the reform that such speed is dangerous. Mr Heseltine says that much of the ground has already been fought over and that the government must do something before the next election. This is true, but only of a part of his programme, the replacement of the poll tax. Even then it is only true if he takes the cabinet's heart where its head is leading it, back to a tax based on property — the rating system.

Changes would be needed to make more people liable to pay rates, to simplify rebates and improve equalisation formulas between rich and poor councils. But business rate revaluation has already ironed out the biggest disparities. The old registers are still in existence and some revised rating system could be implemented as early as 1992. And the Labour party would probably support it.

The trouble starts when Mr Heseltine turns to his more ambitious plans for reforming the whole of local government. His purpose is admirable. The faults of the last reform in the 1970s were, after all, the cause of the rate-capping and poll-tax fiascos. But he is deep in the constitutional long grass.

The objectives he may want to apply to local finance — those of improved accountability, delegation and efficiency — should have wider application to local government reform generally. But that application may take many forms on which there will be many opinions. So while

restoring the rates might be easy, the restructuring of local councils, the revitalising of local politics, the redrawing of local boundaries, all demand thought and discussion. If decisions are rushed, the risk is increased that they will be mistaken. Here Mr Heseltine would do well just to state his objectives and set out his options in a green paper. This is big-time constitutional reform of the sort that engulfs Americans for years. Even elected dictators do well to strive for consensus, and that means more than the clink of coffee cups in Marsham Street.

Mr Heseltine's objectives, to which he must secure cabinet agreement from the start, are already in hand. They are the walking wounded of the old poll tax battles. One is that local government should be made far more accountable to local electorates, both for the spending of local taxes and for the performance of councillors. A second is that local democracy is healthier the more citizens are encouraged to participate in it, both as voters and as officeholders. A third is that the consumers of most local services should pay charges for them, except in cases of real poverty. A fourth is that local boundaries should reflect not just administrative efficiency but local history and loyalty, otherwise participation will be low and cynicism high.

The Times will be examining the application of these principles to various aspects of local government reform over the coming month. The principles are integral to that noble feature of the British constitution, democratic pluralism. This pluralism suffered severe damage under Mrs Thatcher, when both Parliament and the Treasury transferred local power to the centre. If one principle of reform should override all others, it is that this centralisation must be reversed. Reversing it will run counter to the present ethos in Westminster and Whitehall. But reversed it must be. That is Mr Heseltine's challenge.

GORBACHEV VERSUS YELTSIN

President Gorbachev's latest decree, branding Lithuania's proposed referendum on Saturday illegal, is folly. The Soviet leader refuses to accept any poll that would preempt his own plan for a nationwide vote on the future of the union on March 17. If allowed, the Lithuanians will vote massively for independence and the precedent would be used by other republics. The remedy is not more decrees, but conciliation to heal their suspicions of Moscow's manoeuvres to hold the union.

The Lithuanians gave notice of their referendum two weeks ago. What prompted Mr Gorbachev to act now was the audacious plan announced by Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation, for treaties between Russia, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. That amounts to an alternative plan for the union. Comprising over 80 per cent of the Soviet population, such a voluntary confederation would be a magnet for almost all the 15 republics. Mr Yeltsin thus offers a workable constitution that has eluded the Soviet president and parliament for over a year. Mr Yeltsin, leader of the opposition, would begin to look like the head of a government in waiting.

Mr Yeltsin presents an increasingly personal challenge to Mr Gorbachev. Elected overwhelmingly to his parliamentary seat, his popularity has risen as Mr Gorbachev's has slumped. As the central government dithers over economic reform, Russia races ahead with dismantling the Leninist state. The tension between the two former allies is personal. Mr Yeltsin never forgave Mr Gorbachev for sacking him from the Politburo. The Soviet leader has been incensed by the wounding attacks on his motives and sincerity ever since.

Mr Yeltsin has declared the economic independence of Russia and the supremacy

of Russian laws over Soviet laws. He has withheld Russian funds from the union budget, flown to the embattled Baltic states after the Lithuanian massacre and called for a Russian army. Each step seems calculated in Mr Gorbachev's eyes to hasten the disintegration of the union. Mr Yeltsin has accused Mr Gorbachev of amassing more power than Stalin; Mr Gorbachev has called Yeltsin a provocateur who has taken leave of his senses.

Such polarisation makes it misleading to think of Mr Yeltsin as an opposition leader in Western terms, a partner in the political process. Often dismissed as a demagogue, a populist and an opportunist, his motives are deeply suspect. He usually makes a poor impression on Western visitors. But he is a courageous man. He continues to speak out as the shadows of totalitarianism again close in. His is a strident voice of political variety, crying from within the Soviet monolith.

In the Soviet Union, popular votes do not mean political power. Mr Yeltsin opposed Mr Gorbachev's withdrawal of high-denomination banknotes and the putting of armed patrols on the streets, but could do nothing about it. In the public eye, Mr Yeltsin may be a figure to rank alongside Mr Gorbachev. But Moscow is a political village, where KGB headmen have few qualms about removing awkward figures. The West must make it clear that Mr Yeltsin's removal would have serious repercussions. The Yeltsin plan to give more power to the republics deserves support. Without blatant interference in Moscow's quarrels, the West can direct technical aid to the places which will make best use of it, bypassing the Kremlin. Most immediately, Western governments must warn President Gorbachev again and again that in thwarting free votes in the Baltics, he forfeits Western sympathy for his leadership.

DRUGS AND PRIORITIES

Whenever news of another "wonder drug" for the treatment of cancer reaches the ears of patients, hopes soar. There is immediate pressure on doctors to prescribe it even if it is not yet licensed for normal clinical use, and numerous patients come forward offering themselves as guinea pigs in trials.

It is not at first surprising, therefore, that Mrs Maureen Kendrick of Leek, Staffordshire, said she was "seeing" on hearing that the Christie Hospital in Manchester was refusing to sanction her having the drug Interleukin-2. She was told this was because the treatment costs £2,500, and the hospital is already overspent on drugs by £300,000.

Interleukin-2 is an American drug which has been turned down by both the British and American drug safety authorities, not on cost grounds but for medical reasons and after exhaustive trials. British doctors may still prescribe such drugs, on a "named patient only" basis, which is what Mrs Kendrick's disappointed physician, Dr Nicholas Thatcher, was wanting to do. He has now appealed to public opinion over the heads of the committee — the majority of whose members are doctors — which oversees the hospital's drugs budget.

Labour promptly accepted the brief for attacking the government in the Commons yesterday. Yet the withholding of Interleukin-2 does not spell the end of the National Health Service, nor is it necessarily the case that every decision not to pay for an expensive drug is a bad one.

An unlicensed and unreliable medicine is unlikely to be mass-produced. Its high price reflects its limited clinical use. As was well demonstrated by the history of the AZT drug for Aids, once mass-production of an expensive drug gets under way following

approval for general clinical use, the price falls dramatically. Other things being equal, non-standard drugs will always be more expensive than those which have been licensed as safe and reliable.

A national health service must ration resources, as every health administrator and the more sensible doctors well know. Much of the rationing process in the past has been ad hoc and hidden from patients. One of the benefits of the new "internal market" being introduced into the health service is that such decision-making will become more deliberate and open. The language of priorities is not that of a professional coterie but a *lingua franca* of the whole service.

The first question to be asked of a costly treatment is whether it is normal or exceptional. The recommendation of an unlicensed drug is a valid indication that the treatment in question should receive lower priority than otherwise. If it is cheap, an exception could be made. If its cost is significant compared with other forms of treatment, then that cost must weigh against it. For every costly non-standard treatment the question must be asked: how many other patients could be treated with the same money, with greater chances of success?

In the light of this Dr Thatcher was unwise to make his patient's plight a weapon against the Treasury. While each doctor has special responsibility for his own patients, all doctors must accept a broader responsibility for all patients in the health service. The committee of doctors which turned down his request was exercising that responsibility. Someone has to ration limited resources, and if doctors cannot agree how to do so, others will do it for them.

Issue of gas masks on the West Bank

From Mr Daniel Machover and Mrs Teresa Thornhill

Sir, On January 28 the Israeli High Court rejected a plea to speed up the distribution of gas masks to Palestinians in the occupied territories, shortly after which President Saddam Hussein renewed his threat to use chemical weapons.

In the context of international outrage at Iraq's breaching of the third Geneva Convention in its treatment of POWs, this breach by Israel of the fourth Geneva Convention and of The Hague Regulations of 1907 is of grave concern. Under both of these instruments Israel, as an occupying power, has a duty to ensure the physical safety of the population of the land it occupies.

On January 14, in response to a petition by a Palestinian woman, the Israeli High Court ordered that gas masks be distributed to the Palestinians, whereupon the Ministry of Defence announced that it had a reserve of only 173,000 masks for a population of 1.7 million. It said that it would only give masks to those aged over 15, living closest to the pre-1967 borders with Israel (despite the provision of masks to all Israeli settlers in the Occupied Territories). Latest reports indicate that only 50,000 masks have been distributed to Palestinians.

Gulf stresses on European unity

From Professor Alan Watson

Sir, To argue, as does Janet Daley ("Gulf split that could occur again", February 1), that European unity over the Gulf proves the impossibility of European political union is the equivalent of asserting that an outbreak of influenza proves the futility of health care. All the advances of European integration achieved thus far have stemmed from awareness of the price of disunity.

European disunity over the Gulf will lead to a greater intensification of political co-operation in Europe. The precedents are well established.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN I. WATSON,
Cholmondeley House,
Three Cheselands Walk,
Richmond Upon Thames, Surrey.
February 2.

From Mr Stephen Woodard

Sir, The Council of Europe and the European Coal and Steel Community were set up to avoid political disunity, and the EEC was set up to overcome economic and trade disunity. It logically follows that a common foreign and security policy is necessary to overcome the disunity we have witnessed recently. If we continue to mock our European partners for their idealism rather than participating constructively in the debate, they will leave us behind yet again.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WOODARD
(Assistant Director),
The European Movement,
1a Whitehall Place, SW1.
February 5.

Protecting pigs

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, The minister of agriculture — designated "male chauvinist summer of the year" by *The Times* (leading article, January 12) — is young and new to farming. Consequently he apparently does not know that in 1965 the Bramble committee urged that sows should not be kept in quarters which did not permit them to turn round freely without daily exercise, and in any event should not be tethered indoors; or that in 1981 the all-party select committee on agriculture expressed distaste for stalling and milking of sows, recommending that every effort should be made to develop alternative systems.

These are now working well, and the industry has had ample opportunity to adopt them; but, with few exceptions, it has gambled on the assumption that ministries take no notice of the recommendations of their own committees. The Bramble committee 25 years ago added that conditions which appeared to be tolerable then might come to be considered intolerable in the future.

That future is now here, and there is no excuse to delay the banning of sow-stalls and tethers for eight years, as Mr Gummer wants, or even for five years, as is proposed in the Pig Husbandry Bill now before Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNE BOWER
(Honorary Secretary),
The Farm and Food Society,
4 Willfield Way, NW11.
January 28.

Christiana experiment

From Mr Russell Vallance

Sir, Mr Robert Perrin (January 29) advocates tackling the problem of the homeless in London by a bold initiative along the line of the Christiana experiment in Copenhagen. Having visited Christiana a few weeks ago, I think there may be merit in this idea, but there are some important factors to consider.

Christiana was a disused barracks occupied by hippie squatters 20 years ago. The police and the city government tolerate the situation, even to the point of providing free power and water. But Christiana is not always "peaceful and friendly"; it is also dirty and sometimes violent. There have been shootings, and at least one murder in fights to control a flourishing drug traffic.

Whilst Christiana may not be a perfect model, there are some

positive features which could help with London's problems. However, the residents of Christiana seem mostly to be able people who have made a conscious decision to opt out of a comfortable welfare state and to seek an alternative lifestyle. I cannot see the same spirit in the drifters and derelicts living in the central London streets, many of whom seem to be alcoholics, rootless and disorientated young people, and former long-stay psychiatric patients. The inhabitants of the growing, squalid encampment in Lincoln's Inn Fields, for example, are a sad lot and certainly not exercising any positive choices.

The Salvation Army reportedly has vacant beds every night in its London centre, so why do people

sleep in the street? It may be that they are so alienated from normal life that they are unable to respond in any rational way to initiatives designed to help them.

Perhaps the bold initiative Mr Perrin seeks could be the acquisition of suitable large premises in London along the Christiana model. But, if so, will the people respond and move there? Their homelessness probably stems from deep social, medical and psychiatric problems.

The offer of a roof may not be enough. Whilst many Londoners would not be averse to the use of coercion to move them to some central location where they could be helped, such action would be straying from the anti-authoritarian attitudes that motivated Christiana.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL VALLANCE,
35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
January 30.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Also of grave concern is Israel's failure to provide gas masks, sealed rooms and air-raid shelters to 18,000 Palestinian detainees, many of whom are held (in breach of Article 76 of the fourth Geneva Convention) in prisons inside Israel. Some are housed in tents. According to Al-Haq, the Palestinian human rights organisation affiliated to the International Commission of Jurists, nearly 88 per cent are held either in or adjacent to military bases, rendering them especially vulnerable — a point which has been made in relation to Allied POWs in Iraq.

The holding of internees (which a substantial proportion of these detainees are) in such locations, and the failure to provide protection for them, are specifically outlawed by Articles 83, 85 and 88 of the fourth Geneva Convention. A petition demanding the provision of gas masks to all prisoners was also rejected by the High Court on January 28.

Yours sincerely,
DANIEL MACHOVER,
TERESA THORNHILL,
Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights,
PO Box 8M JPL,
London WC1N 3XX.
February 4.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MOONMAN,
1 Beacon Hill, N7.

Legal appointments

From Mr Leslie M. Oliver and Mr David S. L. Barnes

Sir, We read Mr Michael Chambers' remark about unemployed solicitors ("They may find a vacancy doing matrimonial work with a two-partner firm in Ealing, but that's not what they want", quoted in your report of January 29, in conjunction with your leading article recommending them to get on their bikes.

There are very few two-partner firms of solicitors in Ealing; rather less than half-a-dozen do matrimonial work. As the only one with offices next to a bike shop, we are uniquely placed to comment. We are concerned that we may have a deluge of bicycle-riding applicants for a job. We wish to reassure our clients and our staff that no vacancy exists.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE OLIVER,
DAVID BARNES,
Leslie Oliver & Co (solicitors),
Shaftesbury House,
49-51 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5.

Gnome from home

From Mr Richard Wiseman

Sir, There is a sure way of telling whether garden gnomes living abroad are British expatriates (letters, February 1): ask them if their vote has been solicited by expatriate members of the Conservative party.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. WISEMAN,
33 Windermere Avenue, N3.

Time to welcome back South Africa

From Mr Richard Spring

Sir, The post-apartheid agenda which has now been set out by F. W. de Klerk (report and leading article, February 2) is as potentially important to southern Africa as Mikhail Gorbachev's role was in precipitating change in the political structures of eastern Europe.

The South African economy is under considerable strain, with high inflation and unemployment, aggravated by sanctions and an inability to tap international financial markets fully. The world-wide economic recession is placing an additional economic burden on the country. Mr de Klerk needs to be able to demonstrate to his white power base that there are clear rewards for their abandoning their political and social pre-eminence. White political protest should best be confined to parliamentary walk-outs, and no more.

The Commonwealth restrictions on trade, investment and cultural and sporting links should be removed as soon as possible. This should be a first step; the next should be an invitation to the Republic to rejoin the Commonwealth.

Britain is widely recognised as having played an important external part in shaping the recent course of South African political thinking. There is a considerable good will towards this country as a result. Additionally, there is a very real admiration and affection for our royal family, and the Queen in particular, which goes well beyond those of British extraction.

As South Africa emerges to forge relations with the nations of the world, let us encourage her along this path by an invitation to rejoin. Both practically and symbolically it would be a gesture of real significance.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SPRING (prospective parliamentary candidate),
Bury St Edmunds Constituency Conservative Association,
118C Northgate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
February 4.

Time to welcome back South Africa

From Mr Humphry Berkeley

Sir, I made my maiden speech in Parliament in March 1960 and I called for the release of Dr Banda from Gwelo jail. In 1961 I was the only Conservative MP to call for the release of Jomo Kenyatta. From 1965 until 1979 I was prohibited to enter Ian Smith's Rhodesia; this prohibition was lifted when the independent state of Zimbabwe was born.

For many years I was a vice-president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement. In 1979 I was nearly murdered in South Africa, on the orders (so I was told by the late Sir Maurice Oldfield) of the South African government because I was trying to secure genuine independence for Transkei, where Nelson Mandela was born.

In my view, none the less, the British government should drop sanctions, and should restore sporting and cultural links with South Africa as soon as the legislation outlined in President de Klerk's speech to the South African parliament has been passed, and, most importantly, as soon as the South African government undertakes to cease to destabilise neighbouring African states. I have, particularly, Mozambique in mind. Then the West should encourage the maximum investment into South Africa, directed towards increasing the education and development of Africans in the black areas.

While South Africans need to know that South Africa will be welcomed back into the international community once these events have taken place. This would be the most important way of preventing Dr Treurnicht and his Conservative party from creating a white backlash.

I heard the late Harold Macmillan express the hope in the House of Commons in 1961 that South Africa might one day re-enter the Commonwealth. It would be splendid if she were able to do so 30 years later.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard, Chiswick, W4.
February 4.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SPRING (prospective parliamentary candidate),
Bury St Edmunds Constituency Conservative Association,
118C Northgate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
February 4.

Diplomatic exit

From the Chairman of Democrats Abroad (UK)

Sir, The departure of Ambassador Henry Catto from London (report, January 29) will be welcomed by Democrats Abroad (UK) who will always remember his address to our 1989 annual general meeting.

In the spirit of non-partisan cooperation, we asked the Ambassador to speak on the emerging events in Eastern Europe and the Malta summit which had occurred the previous day. Ambassador Catto instead gave a campaign speech for President Bush, one year after the election.

His response to questions on

Flight distribution

From Mr Michael Nutt

Sir, Whilst Terry Lovett's letter (January 29) concerning the Civil Aviation Authority's recently published report to the Secretary of State for Transport on the traffic distribution rules does voice an understandable concern about the impact of the CAA's proposals upon regional air links to London, his assertion that runway slots are "a product" sold by the airport operator to the airlines misunderstands the point.

"Slots" are principally part of the mechanism accepted by both airport operators and airlines by which the use of airport runways is divided up and allocated amongst those wishing to use it. That system provides for "grandfather rights" because airlines and, I suggest, airport operators recognise not only the investment which airlines want to make in order to operate a scheduled service but also the importance of continuity from season to season.

These are some of the very factors which make the regional air links so important to those who use them. If, as Mr Lovett claims, the airport operators do have proprietary rights to the slots, it is not easy to see how they will reconcile their need to extract the greatest profit from the aircraft movements with the broader need to provide an efficient, integrated air transport service. This is, however, a conflict requiring resolution. A sensible level of co-operation between airports and airlines must continue, so that the interests of the travelling public can be protected.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NOTT,
Rowe & Maw (solicitors),
20 Black Friars Lane, EC4.

Zivkov trial

From Mrs Jessica Douglas-Home

Sir, It has recently been announced that the trial of Todor Zivkov, former ruler of Bulgaria, will open on February 25. He is charged with only the smallest of his offences, "exceeding his authority... and illegally acquiring property".

As is widely acknowledged, Zivkov is probably guilty of multiple murder. Since at least one of his alleged victims, Georgi Markov, was a British citizen, killed in this country, would it not also be appropriate for our government to apply for his extradition to stand trial for murder here?

Yours sincerely,
JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME,
63 Hillgate Place, W8.
January 29.

The new millennium

From Mr David Blackman

Sir, Richard Need (January 31) claims that the millennium will end on December 31, 2000. That depends of course on when the millennium began. Common sense suggests that the first millennium began on the first of January, AD 0, and that (give or take a few days for hiccups in the calendar) a bank manager would require 2001 years' interest for a loan taken out then and repaid on December 31, 2000.

To put it another way, the tape for a hundred metres race is set at 100 metres exactly, not at 101 metres, or even at 100.99 metres.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLACKMAN,
24 Belgrave Road,
Seaford, East Sussex.
February 1.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY CADE,
76 Cabrera Avenue,
Virginia Water, Surrey.

Issue of gas masks on the West Bank

From Mr Daniel Machover and Mrs Teresa Thornhill

Sir, On January 28 the Israeli High Court rejected a plea to speed up the distribution of gas masks to Palestinians in the occupied territories, shortly after which President Saddam Hussein renewed his threat to use chemical weapons.

In the context of international outrage at Iraq's breaching of the third Geneva Convention in its treatment of POWs, this breach by Israel of the fourth Geneva Convention and of The Hague Regulations of 1907 is of grave concern. Under both of these instruments Israel, as an occupying power, has a duty to ensure the physical safety of the population of the land it occupies.

On January 14, in response to a petition by a Palestinian woman, the Israeli High Court ordered that gas masks be distributed to the Palestinians, whereupon the Ministry of Defence announced that it had a reserve of only 173,000 masks for a population of 1.7 million. It said that it would only give masks to those aged over 15, living closest to the pre-1967 borders with Israel (despite the provision of masks to all Israeli settlers in the Occupied Territories). Latest reports indicate that only 50,000 masks have been distributed to Palestinians.

Gulf stresses on European unity

From Professor Alan Watson

Sir, To argue, as does Janet Daley ("Gulf split that could occur again", February 1), that European unity over the Gulf proves the impossibility of European political union is the equivalent of asserting that an outbreak of influenza proves the futility of health care. All the advances of European integration achieved thus far have stemmed from awareness of the price of disunity.

European disunity over the Gulf will lead to a greater intensification of political co-operation in Europe. The precedents are well established.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN I. WATSON,
Cholmondeley House,
Three Cheselands Walk,
Richmond Upon Thames, Surrey.
February 2.

From Mr Stephen Woodard

Sir, The Council of Europe and the European Coal and Steel Community were set up to avoid political disunity, and the EEC was set up to overcome economic and trade disunity. It logically follows that a common foreign and security policy is necessary to overcome the disunity we have witnessed recently. If we continue to mock our European partners for their idealism rather than participating constructively in the debate, they will leave us behind yet again.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WOODARD
(Assistant Director),
The European Movement,
1a Whitehall Place, SW1.
February 5.

Protecting pigs

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, The minister of agriculture — designated "male chauvinist summer of the year" by *The Times* (leading article, January 12) — is young and new to farming. Consequently he apparently does not know that in 1965 the Bramble committee urged that sows should not be kept in quarters which did not permit them to turn round freely without daily exercise, and in any event should not be tethered indoors; or that in 1981 the all-party select committee on agriculture expressed distaste for stalling and milking of sows, recommending that every effort should be made to develop alternative systems.

These are now working well, and the industry has had ample opportunity to adopt them; but, with few exceptions, it has gambled on the assumption that ministries take no notice of the recommendations of their own committees. The Bramble committee 25 years ago added that conditions which appeared to be tolerable then might come to be considered intolerable in the future.

That future is now here, and there is no excuse to delay the banning of sow-stalls and tethers for eight years, as Mr Gummer wants, or even for five years, as is proposed in the Pig Husbandry Bill now before Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNE BOWER
(Honorary Secretary),
The Farm and Food Society,
4 Willfield Way, NW11.
January 28.

Christiana experiment

From Mr Russell Vallance

Sir, Mr Robert Perrin (January 29) advocates tackling the problem of the homeless in London by a bold initiative along the line of the Christiana experiment in Copenhagen. Having visited Christiana a few weeks ago, I think there may be merit in this idea, but there are some important factors to consider.

Christiana was a disused barracks occupied by hippie squatters 20 years ago. The police and the city government tolerate the situation, even to the point of providing free power and water. But Christiana is not always "peaceful and friendly"; it is also dirty and sometimes violent. There have been shootings, and at least one murder in fights to control a flourishing drug traffic.

Whilst Christiana may not be a perfect model, there are some

positive features which could help with London's problems. However, the residents of Christiana seem mostly to be able people who have made a conscious decision to opt out of a comfortable welfare state and to seek an alternative lifestyle. I cannot see the same spirit in the drifters and derelicts living in the central London streets, many of whom seem to be alcoholics, rootless and disorientated young people, and former long-stay psychiatric patients. The inhabitants of the growing, squalid encampment in Lincoln's Inn Fields, for example, are a sad lot and certainly not exercising any positive choices.

The Salvation Army reportedly has vacant beds every night in its London centre, so why do people

sleep in the street? It may be that they are so alienated from normal life that they are unable to respond in any rational way to initiatives designed to help them.

Perhaps the bold initiative Mr Perrin seeks could be the acquisition of suitable large premises in London along the Christiana model. But, if so, will the people respond and move there? Their homelessness probably stems from deep social, medical and psychiatric problems.

The offer of a roof may not be enough. Whilst many Londoners would not be averse to the use of coercion to move them to some central location where they could be helped, such action would be straying from the anti-authoritarian attitudes that motivated Christiana.

Yours sincerely,
RUSSELL VALLANCE,
35 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
January 30.

Staying married for the money

If a recession makes couples think twice about divorce, can it be said to be good for marriage? Victoria McKee investigates the state of the union in hard-pressed households

What the Americans call "holy deadlock" and *New York* magazine dubbed "live-in divorce" is becoming the state of many unions in Britain in the Nineties, says the divorce lawyer Peter Grose-Hodge. Mr Grose-Hodge, the president of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a partner in Druce & Atlee in London, professes to be twiddling his £200-an-hour thumbs more than he has been wont. "My clients are thinking twice about divorce," he says. "They are realising the financial implications and are deciding to stay together, because they are not willing to sell their properties at a loss."

While the Mintel report "British Lifestyles 1991" suggests that divorce figures may have stabilised, and will climb only slowly from their current 37 per cent to 40 per cent of marriages by the end of the century, could the statistics be hiding a hotbed of hostility?

The seemingly ludicrous scenario pursued to a macabre conclusion in the recent American film *The War of the Roses* is being lived out, albeit to a lesser degree, in an increasing number of British homes, Mr Grose-Hodge suggests, with couples deciding to stay together in a state of "armed neutrality", rather than risk the financially crippling wounds of divorce. (In the film, Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner turn their marital mansion into a battleground rather than allow it to be sold as part of a divorce settlement, dividing it down the middle and only crossing the line for gruesome guerrilla attacks on the other's most prized pets and possessions.) So much for the "unifying" effect. Other matrimonial lawyers and counsellors suggest that a more obvious result of recession is the additional burden placed on an already strained relationship. As Jane Simpson, of Manches & Co in London, puts it: "Families can no longer go on as many holidays, or have as many of the luxuries which make the marriage bearable." David Salter, of Booth & Co in Leeds, notes that while a business in jeopardy increases strain on a marriage, it may also make it an appropriate time, financially, for a husband to get divorced, "as orders will be made which make capital provi-

sion for the wife on the basis of the value of his assets at present, which cannot be reopened in the future".

Margaret Bennett, of the London firm of the same name, sums up the recession divorce dilemma thus: "From the man's point of view the recession is a time when he may figure he might as well divorce her now, since half of nothing is nothing. The wife may have ceased to regard her husband as an asset because he's not earning as much, and she may feel that even if there's only the matrimonial home, she may get away with that free and clear. On the other hand, some people prefer to hang on to get a better deal."

Charles Doughty, of Withers, a London firm known for its large number of wealthy clients, confirms Mr Grose-Hodge's view that the financial climate has been causing some of those who might once have taken to their heels to cool them. "Obviously it must have a considerable bearing because if there's not enough money to go round some people would prefer to live in reasonable comfort and disharmony than to starve alone — or should I say, to live in less comfort."

Discomfort is relative, of course, and the high-profile American divorce lawyer Raoul Felder jokes that to some of his wealthy clients "poverty means, as one woman said to me, being reduced to eating spaghetti in an unfashionable restaurant on York Avenue". Mr Felder — who has the biggest matrimonial practice in America and charges \$500 (£250) an hour for his time — has had cases, he claims, "where people have put the cat in the washing machine and poisoned the dog — just like *The War of the Roses*. There was a record collection smashed, and one woman who put open bottles of ink in her husband's pockets. I've even had murders because people were so frustrated at being forced by financial circumstances to live together unhappily."

In less hot-tempered Britain a cold war is more likely to exist among unhappy couples caught up in an economic stalemate. Those most affected in this way are probably the heavily mortgaged middle classes, putting children through private school and des-



For richer: financial strains may be forcing unhappy couples to emulate Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas in *The War of the Roses*

perately anxious to keep up appearances, according to Zelda West-Meads, the spokeswoman for Relate. "We've had a big increase in people coming to us for counselling to help them to stay together, because they say they can't divorce for financial reasons."

With property prices still falling, many couples are rethinking their plans and coming up with some innovative arrangements. A marriage guidance counsellor with Relate reports that one couple could not sell their huge Victorian house, so they divided it: the wife and children have the top two floors, and the husband lives in the bottom two — with his new

mistress. "Extraordinarily enough," the counsellor says, "it's working out quite well."

Another Relate counsellor in southeast England talks about "one couple I have who want to split, the marriage is very dead. There is no future in the relationship for them, but they cannot sell the house and are terribly over-committed with a high mortgage and two children at private schools. High interest rates pushed them over the top. Money has always been used as a means of control in the relationship, so now there's very little to throw around that's a problem. The man — who is in computers — got his status from his earnings and ability to control

the money. The wife, a part-time teacher, sublimated a lot of her feelings of loss in the relationship by pushing him for more material things. When the recession hit she couldn't ask for a bigger house or more furniture, and he couldn't provide any more, so both of them lost their sense of self."

Helen (Lady) Ward of Pennington, a leading London matrimonial lawyer, while agreeing that "people are becoming more realistic about the consequences of the dissolution of the marriage in financial terms", believes that emotional considerations will, in most cases, eventually override financial ones, and Mintel predicts

that the current recession should end in 1992.

In the meantime Mr Doughty will continue to counsel his clients that "all women are the same and most men — so why bother to change?". And he says he will not use "love-dovey methods" to encourage them to stay together when financial pragmatism would be more appropriate.

"One does try every time, as we are required and requested to do, to encourage reconciliation," he says. "Often the best way is to say 'if you want to get rid of this person, just think of the price you'll have to pay'. And not just to the lawyers."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1991

& BRIEFLY

Teenagers at work

THEY could have picked a better time to try to interest teenagers in working, studying, adventuring and teaching abroad; but two new guides, published this week aim to do just that. *The Teenager's Vacation Guide to Work, Study and Adventure* (£6.95) and *Teaching English Abroad* (£7.95), both from Vacation Work Publications (9 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HL; telephone 0865 241978), give details of opportunities in sunnier climes — including the Middle East. "Both books were compiled before the current situation," says a spokesman for the publisher. "Most of the teenagers' activities, however, are in Britain and Europe and are quite safe."

New Whistles

THE popular Whistles chain will be opening a shop-within-a-shop at Fenwick's of New Bond Street on Monday. Early arrivals will include curly jackets (about £150) and matching miniskirts (£30) in orange, gold, and navy and cream. Lycra tops and ski pants are also in the range.

With love

IF YOUR love is more exciting than a red, red rose, the Craft Council shop at the Victoria & Albert museum, has a special display that runs until February 14, including Carol Mather's articulated "bird of paradise" brooch, painted on brass with a colourful, heart-and-flowers theme; Frank Egerton's wooden beaver bearing roses between its teeth; and Janet Bolton's heart-shaped fabric collages. Prices range from £10 to £500.

Spode spot

THE Spode Society takes the appreciation of that particular brand of china seriously. Lectures, parties, and visits to the Spode factory, museum and factory shop in the Potteries are some of the fun club festivities on offer. Further details can be obtained from the membership secretary, PO Box 1812, London NW4 4NW (081-203 1769).

V.MCK.

Anyone who puts a Valentine's Day message in *The Times* must have a soft centre.



Declare your love with a Valentine's Day message in *The Times*.

And send your sweetheart a delicious 'His' or 'Hers' box of Charbonnel et Walker luxury chocolates.

A 3 line message with a gift will cost £24.50 (inclusive of VAT and postage). A 3 line message without a gift is £18.97 (inclusive of VAT).

Additional lines cost £6.32 each (inclusive of VAT). The minimum message is 3 lines with approximately 4 words to a line.

To take advantage of this tasty offer, complete the coupon or phone 071-481 4000 and prove that you're just a big softy at heart.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____
Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd., or debit my: Visa/Master/Access with the sum of £ _____
Card No. _____
Expiry Date _____ Today's Date _____
Write your message below (approximately 28 characters per line, including spaces and punctuation). Minimum 3 lines.

Recipient's name and address _____

☐ His ☐ Hers
By filling in this coupon with your remittance to: SIMON GORDON, THE TIMES, 1, YORK STREET, LONDON EC3N 3XL, ALL MESSAGES WILL BE REPRODUCED IN THE TIMES FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1991. ALL VOUCHERS MUST BE PAID BY 11.00 PM ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1991. THE RIGHT TO USE AN ADVERTISEMENT AT OUR DISCRETION.

Airport '91 — the scene opens on an almost deserted transatlantic arrivals hall

Who's afraid of flying?

Ed Victor, the American literary agent who has lived in Britain for 30 years, has trips planned to Stockholm, Los Angeles, Grenada, New York and Long Island in the next few months, and intends to take them all. "I don't want to change my life for these guys," he says. "I intend to die in my bed at 98, next to my wife."

Mr Victor is not entirely nervous, having flown — by TWA — to New York on the day of the Lockerbie disaster. "I arrived in New York to find sobbing messages on my answering machine. But I am

Jeffrey Archer flies to New York later this month for a speaking engagement, then again three weeks later for the Conservative party, and four weeks after that on book business; he thinks Americans who are staying at home are "being unnecessarily circumspect. If you are going to rearrange your whole life for something like this, you may as well not cross the road."

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Atlantic Airways, sees the question as a matter of national pride. "The British have not stopped flying. They are out there trying to get business for Britain," he says. In the next month he will visit Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Some of the musicians booked to appear in London appear less bullish, however. Dionne Warwick and the rapper MC Hammer have both cancelled, as have the Latin Brothers, a Colombian band booked to play at the Empire Leicester Square. "I should have thought it was safer in London than Medellin," their promoter, Stuart Lyon, says.

The American embassy stresses that there has been no specific advice not to fly. "All we have said is that we expect the risk of terrorism to increase, especially in western Europe and the Middle East," says spokeswoman Charla Hutton, who claims the recession has just as much to do with the reduction in travel. Carrie Fisher, the actress and

writer, who was to promote *Postcards From the Edge* in Britain, is one of the American celebrities who will not be travelling. Kevin Costner, scheduled to visit Britain, the Berlin Film Festival, Sweden and France to publicise *Dances With Wolves*, has deferred the trip. Sigourney Weaver and Charles Dutton, who are in Britain filming *Alien III*, are hoping that the hostilities will be over before they fly back to America in April or May.

The fashion industry seems less worried by the terrorism threat. Last week the Vicomtesse Jacqueline de Ribes had a comfortable flight on Concorde from New York to Paris, lying across two seats. Kalman Rutensztein, the senior vice-president and fashion director of Bloomingdale's in New York, says: "She slept very elegantly." The pair were travelling to Paris for the haute couture collections, as were most of their fellow passengers. Elin Saltzman, the senior vice-president and fashion director of the Macy's chain, was also on board. "The management were worried about me but they left the decision to me. I am not frightened. It's the insurance companies who try to make the rules."

In the week before the Paris show the decision to carry on seemed almost to hinge on the arrival of one particular fashion professional. Would Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of *American Vogue*, make the trip? In fact Ms Wintour had arrived a day earlier. "Condé Nast sent a memo to everyone that travel was off-limits unless essential. I decided to travel. It's different if you are a customer. But this is my job." The mother of two small boys, she got no discouragement from her husband: "He thought it was wimpish to even think about cancelling," she says. All the top models in the shows are European based, but five of the big names flew to make the trip because of the Gulf conflict, including Cla-

dia Schiffer, who cancelled because "there are too many Arabs in Paris".

Linda Wachner, the president of the Warnaco fashion empire, gave a lift home in her private jet to Jacqueline Cotsen, the president of Coty Capital, which owns Neutrogena, and Martina Kramer, of Ungaro New York. Mrs Cotsen is indignant that anyone should cancel for safety. "I would never let anything stop a deal," she says. "The way to support your country is to have guts."

The Valentino contingent from Rome arrived, with Si-

gnor Valentino and his partner Giancarlo Giammetti flying in by private plane. Romy Godwin, the assistant designer, and Daniela Giardina, the head of Valentino promotions, slept all the way in wagons lit.

Sarah Mower, the associate features editor of *British Vogue*, who also took the train to Paris last week, says: "I've never been that keen on flying. The slightest thing will make me hyper-nervous. I think the British are being ridiculously stiff-upper-lip about this."

GERALDINE BEDELL

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ELECTION OF ONE SPECIAL AND FOUR REGIONAL MEMBERS TO THE MILK MARKETING BOARD — 1991

The Milk Marketing Board hereby announces as follows:

1. The Board have determined the retirement date for 1991 as midnight on Tuesday, 30 July 1991.

2. One Special Member of the Board and one Regional Member for each of the North-Western, Eastern, East-Midland and South-Eastern Regions have to be elected.

3. The Board are prepared to receive nominations of candidates for these elections. Such nominations must be received by the Board at the Board's offices at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 5 March 1991.

4. Every person so nominated as a candidate for election as a Special or Regional Member of the Board must deposit with the Secretary of the Board not later than 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 5 March 1991, the sum of £200.

5. No person shall be qualified to be elected as a Special Member of the Board unless he or she has been nominated as a candidate either by resolution of the Board or in writing by at least forty registered producers.

6. No person shall be qualified to be elected as a Regional Member of the Board for an English Region unless he or she has been nominated in writing as a candidate by at least twenty registered producers, entitled to vote in that election, or by a County Branch of the National Farmers' Union in the Region.

7. A person may not be a candidate for election as a Special Member and as a Regional Member at the same time.

8. A candidate may withdraw from his or her candidature by a written notice to the effect provided it is delivered at the offices of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, not later than 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 March 1991.

9. Any election literature issued by or on behalf of a candidate should bear the name and address of the person issuing it and the name of the candidate on whose behalf it is issued.

NOTE: Candidates in the Special Member elections of which notice is given on this page may be interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (if more than one) the opportunity for a 1,000 word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board, to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers at a cost to each candidate of £300.

Candidates in Regional Board Member elections of which notice is given on this page may be interested to know that the Board have agreed to offer each properly nominated candidate (in contested elections) the opportunity for a 1,000 word election address, prepared by the candidate and reproduced by the Board, to be distributed with the voting papers to all producers in the relevant Region, at a cost to each candidate of £100.

Candidates who wish to avail themselves of these services must submit a copy of the election address to the Secretary of the Board at Thames Ditton, Surrey, so that it and the relevant fee are received by her not later than Monday, 25 March 1991. If advance notice of an intention to avail oneself of the service can be given it will be administratively most

THE TIMES

CABARET

No alternative now she's gone

William Cook finds that comedians are mourning the loss of a favourite target

Alternative comedy is Margaret Thatcher's most unlikely legacy. Among all the changes of her 11 years in office, the re-establishment of the stand-up comedian as social commentator is surely among the strangest.

Mrs Thatcher was often referred to as the common enemy by the leading members of this remarkable renaissance. Yet she left British comedy much stronger than she found it. And after a decade spent railing against her actions, Mrs Thatcher's children seem lost without her.

"Being a stand-up comedian wasn't a viable option in 1978," says Arthur Smith, co-creator of ITV's *Paramount City*. "The only role models were fat men in frilly shirts. Alternative comedy was a reaction against the entertainment on offer."

As the Conservatives won the 1979 election, The Comedy Store - the Royal Academy of Alternative Comedy - opened. Arnold Brown, now a Radio 4 regular, was going off on his opening night.

"Margaret Thatcher was the epitome of everything we disliked about society," says Brown. "But she was big and broad - and that's what comedy is about. In a recession, comedy is the only growth industry. It is cathartic relief for the impotence of the Left." Alternative comedy's enfant terrible, Gerry Sadowitz, claims: "Margaret Thatcher is totally responsible for alternative comedy. If Thatcher created a riot, alternative comedians were the looters."

"She made the boundaries much clearer. From 1979 all you had to do was mention her, add a swear word and you'd get a good reaction." "Alternative comedy helped to mythologise Mrs Thatcher," says David Baddiel of BBC 2's *Mary Whitehouse Experience*. "All her enemies went along with her mythology: her strength, her endurance, even her masculinity. We won't subvert our leaders until we ignore imposed assumptions about what they are really like." Brown agrees: "You can't take caricatures seriously. Satire sanitises them. Calling her 'Thatch' made her sound quite lovable."

Eighties satire transformed villains into anti-heroes. Harry Enfield's *Loadsamoney* was idolised for his vices. Rik Mayall's *New Statesman* is an endearing little rascal. In the theatre, Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* broke her records for champagne sales. Her City

satire became an office party, celebrated by the same folk it set out to satirise.

Alternative comedy's Labour party activism met mixed results. "I did the Red Wedge tour before the last election," reminisces Arthur Smith. "We played six marginal constituencies - they all sold out. But all six seats were won by the Tories - by roughly the same number of votes as the audiences at each gig."

"It's largely been a middle-class affair," concedes Smith. "Paul Merton and Mark Steel claim they're the only comics on the circuit who don't have degrees."

Alternative comedians became icons of the enterprise culture they criticised. "Alternative comedy was one of the few successful small businesses of the Thatcher years," claims Julian Clary. "It used to be eccentric. Now it's full of people seeking series on Channel 4." Jeremy Hardy, a *Perrier* award-winner, adds: "The values of new comedy were very closely related to new capitalism. Style became more important than content."

"The dilemma used to be: do I want to be on *Wogan*?" says Brown. "Now the dilemma is: do I want to be *Wogan*?" "Robbie Coltrane does *Peril* ads, and Alexei Sayle does voice-overs for *Rumbelows*," ruses comedienne Jo Brand. And Mrs Thatcher's demise constitutes the loss of an old and trusted friend. The focus of dissatisfactions has been taken away," says Clary. "John Major's much more bland." "Spitting *Image* is struggling," claims Baddiel. "Mrs Thatcher was easier to hit."

After a decade of polarity, some comedians are moving away from politics altogether. "There's been a depoliticisation of the intellectual classes," Baddiel says. "Lots of right-on people can't be bothered any more."

Channel 4's *Vic Reeves' Big Night Out* epitomises comedy's new nihilism. "It's a reaction to ten years' domination by socialist comedians," says Smith. "If you weren't left of Labour you were deemed a bit odd."

"I was once knocking Mrs Thatcher," says Brown. "But the younger generation has been brutalised. The Left has let them down." So did all that furious invective actually change anything? Alternative comedy's lasting achievements are cultural, not political. "Fifteen years ago, sexist and racist jokes were *de rigueur*," says Smith. "Today, intelligent comedy is back in vogue."



Brown: cathartic relief

CINEMA

Bad language and big bucks



Did somebody say a bad word? Above left, Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh share a scene from *Gone with the Wind*; above right, Robert De Niro turns to violence in *GoodFellas*



Words that, barely a quarter of a century ago, would have resulted in instant arrest or even a prison sentence for insulting behaviour can now be heard on stage and screen. On stage and screen they are even harder to escape.

This week a reader wrote to this page, noting that out of a dozen plays he had seen which are currently running in London, he had been struck by language that he rated "obscene" in no fewer than ten. Here is a profound change from the time, not so long ago, when the Lord Chamberlain, the British Board of Film Censors and the American Production Code ensured that the language of entertainment was far more purified than that spoken by most of its audiences.

In the silent film era, language did not concern the censors, apart from occasional complaints at some vulgarity in sub-titles. Talking pictures led to precise provisions in the American Production Code. "Pointed profanity (this includes the words God, Lord, Jesus, Christ, unless used reverently - Hell, damn, Gawd), or every other profane or vulgar expression, however used, is banned."

For four decades the ruling was strictly followed on both sides of the Atlantic. It was a major sensation throughout the English-speaking world when, in 1939, David Selznick exceptionally prevailed upon Will Hays, the architect of Hollywood censorship, to permit Clark Gable in *Gone with the Wind* to utter his famous valediction to Scarlett O'Hara: "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

Selznick pleaded to Hays, with a touch of irony, perhaps: "I do not feel that your giving me permission

Film-makers' profits may depend on the obscenity-level of the script. David Robinson traces the history of cinema censorship and offence

to use 'damn' in this one sentence will open up the floodgates." He was right: as late as 1955 the expressions "Good Lord" and "damn" were forbidden in the James Dean film, *Giant*. Yet proscription is ever the mother of invention. W.C. Fields fooled the Production Code with imprecations of his own devising, such as "Godfrey Daniel".

In literature, the liberation of language began earlier than in films. In 1949 Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead* narrowly escaped prosecution in this country because of its persistent use of the word "fucking". Throughout the Fifties the word which Mailer only suggested made more and more appearances in American novels, though it was regularly cut out of the English editions until 1959.

In that year, the Obscene Publications Act first introduced a defence of artistic merit. The next year the trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* brought four-letter words into public debate. Meanwhile, the Lord Chamberlain's Office finally gave up its centuries-long censorship of the stage. On television, Alf Garnett gave "bloody" such currency that the British Board of Film Censors allowed the word in *Billy Liar* (1963), with an A certificate.

The X certificate gave the Board new latitude. In 1967, "bugger" was permitted in *Up the Junction*. In the early 1970s, certification of the films of Andy Warhol introduced a truly comprehensive vocabulary. Today it is hard to think of an expression that has not been heard on the screen.

The modern vocabulary marks a singular linguistic revolution. The

words proscribed by the old production codes were swearing or profanity in the true sense, with purely spiritual connotations in their reference to the deity. While this form of swearing has lost the force it had, the essence of all the new words of emphasis is physical. They divide roughly into three groups. One, generally the mildest, includes rectal/excretory expressions.

The second comprises synonyms for the male or female genitalia. These - apart from the more infantile words such as "dick" and "prick" - retain the greatest power to offend, and are the least used. In most common use are the words that originally define sexual acts. It is not uncommon for the word "fuck" and its derivatives to appear 30 or 40 times in a police movie; in *GoodFellas*, the count would certainly be well over 100.

The anomaly of this prodigal use of language that would once have

been generally regarded as unacceptable obscene is that, even today, it in no way coincides with the usage of the great majority of the audience - any more than did the excessive puritanism of the old production code. Thus, many people who go to the cinema encounter language to which they are not accustomed in daily life. Even though such language is much more a feature of American than British films, in the United States there is a majority to whom this mode of speech is quite alien.

Is all the language necessary, then? The American film trade would argue that it is. The bourgeoisie and the Bible Belt are not after all the most profitable audience; the public that is, wants strong sensation, which they will to an extent measure by the language in which the films are couched. Moreover, since the public tends to prejudge movies by their classification, the film distributors aim for those classifications that promise the strongest fare while admitting the largest age range. In Britain this is the 15 certificate; in the US the PG13. Often there is a contractual obligation on film-makers to achieve a PG13, for which the minimum requirement is one use of the obscenity, "fuck". It is perhaps significant that even in the supposedly "family" film *Memphis Belle* an attentive ear will detect the single requisite usage.

The level of language affects the extra-theatrical careers of films. Artistic versions must have all the strong language excised. In this country, video versions, likely to be viewed at home, are sometimes

more stringently classified by the BBFC than the original films. American television is generally much more puritanical than our own in re-editing films for transmission. British television has its own rules. BBC1 and ITV will generally show films uncut after 10 pm; BBC2 and Channel 4 after 9. When films are shown before those hours there is a danger that the viewer might be confused by abrupt cuts and bleeps. For the first time on Christmas Day the BBC censored a film classified as U by the British board, when a "shit" was removed from *E.T.*, which followed the Queen's speech.

Does language matter? James Firmin, Secretary of the BBFC, points out that it is only in the English-speaking world that such strong taboos have been built up around dictionary words; and that this country shares with South Africa alone its extreme anxiety about "bad" language.

The most serious result of the prohibition of this comparatively restricted vocabulary is the impoverishment of writing. For back screenwriters, sexually-based words have become a kind of shorthand to represent insult or anger, while rectal/excretory words more generally are used to get an easy laugh. As inevitably as "Pow!" or "Wham!" in comic strips, a comedy crash or fall has to be accompanied by a cry of "Shee-it!"

With use, the words have rapidly lost most of the shock value they once had. To be effective, writers will soon have to start looking for imaginative alternatives. Perhaps we will one day be startled again by "Godfrey Daniel", or even the kind of creative flights to which linguistic prohibition could inspire an O'Casey.

Only in the English-speaking world have such strong taboos built up around dictionary words. This country shares with South Africa alone its extreme anxiety about 'bad' language

TOURING EXHIBITION

Icons of pale invaders

John Russell Taylor on how other cultures viewed the Europeans who first explored and colonised the world

Before 1940, Europe seems to have known exactly where it was with the art of other cultures. Books appeared with titles such as *How the Savages Saw Us*. Even the most sympathetic, that by Julius Lips with a preface by Malinowski, is unambiguously entitled *The Savage Hits Back*. Nowadays, of course, there is too much justified self-doubt around for anybody to call anybody else "savage". The new South Bank touring show on the subject of how the European was seen by other cultures very reasonably turns the Eurocentric concept on its head, by adopting the title *Exotic Europeans*.

In the eyes of the Japanese print-maker, the Indian miniature, the African carver, Europeans were extremely exotic, irrational, bizarre and ridiculous. It is not particularly flattering to Europeans to find how frequently they were just plain ridiculous. Better by far to be a white ghost or a pink-skinned devil than a red-skinned figure of fun. As for *amour propre*, the Dutch trader, the Portuguese navigator and the English colonist often look silly; nothing to be frightened of. Possibly this was the big mistake the other continents made.

The show covers a remark-



Mary Kingsley's portrait, from southern Nigeria

able variety of cultures and responses. The European making love to a Japanese courtesan is a fearsome half-animal figure, showing a strange claw-like hand emerging from his voluminous sleeve. The British Columbian artist who carved a European and his wife out of argillite seems to have seen the wife as the dominating figure, with the husband as an odd appendage. The Nigerian who made a portrait bust of Mary Kingsley was in no doubt that Europeans had large noses, though to judge from more conventional

depictions of the lady this may have been no more than a fair piece of caricature. What may be the missionary Mary Stevor fares better at the hands of another Nigerian: in turning her likeness into a walking-stick he makes her at once imposing and sad, a dream image from Stevie Smith.

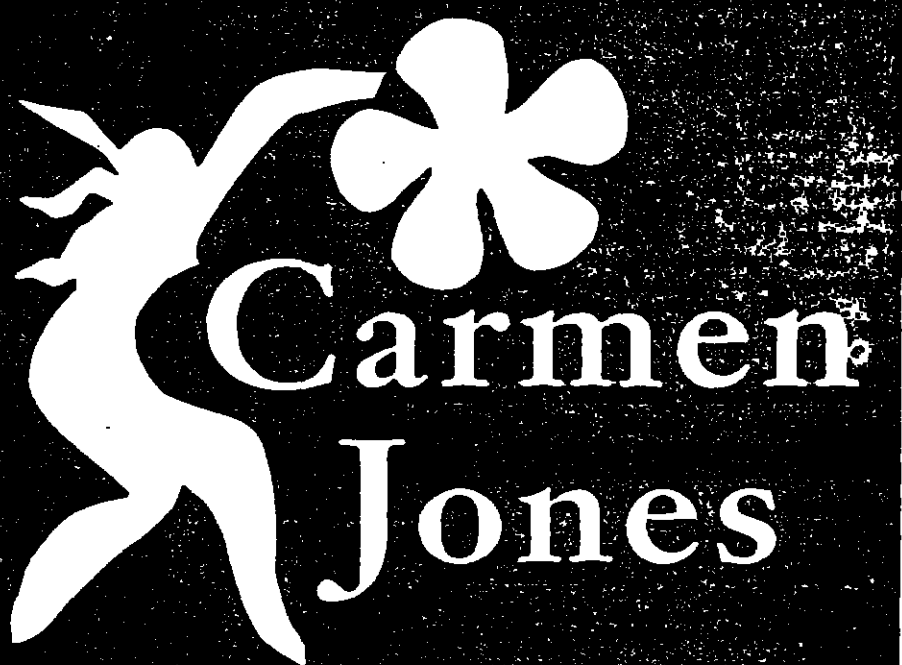
Here and there the English turn up as devils: the male figures with removable hats from Tanzania do not look as though you would wish to meet them on a dark night. The Englishman talking to the Chinese with two ducks in an 1861 Nanking print perhaps looks diabolical only because he is given a Punch-like nose and chin. But elsewhere the way that Europeans are incorporated into ritual vessels or dance masks does not bode well for international relations. At least the point of view is rarely, if ever, servile.

Even when the artist is working directly for European clients, he tends, as in the Chinese *blanc de chine* group of four Europeans with a dog, a games board and a bonnet, to veil his hostility or amusement as lightly as possible.

Conceivably the most intimidating image of all in the show is that closest to the subject's own self-image. There is a wonderfully exact early 20th-century ivory figure of a lady of the Raj, every detail from her Queen Mary-style outfit and erect stance to her self-satisfied expression caught to the life. It looks as though the carver embodied all his nastiest thoughts about her and her class in his carving. It also looks as though she absolutely loved the result. Let them hate, provided they fear. Especially if we can go on thinking all the time that they love us.

Exotic Europeans, City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (0272 223571) until March 3, then visiting Sheffield, Birmingham and Liverpool.

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II'S CELEBRATED BROADWAY MUSICAL



lyrics by HAMMERSTEIN
music by BIZET
based on the opera CARMEN

An international cast of singers and actors from London's West End, New York Opera and Glynedebourne.

directed by Simon Callow
musical direction Henry Lewis

For the first time ever in London. Opens 8 April

THE OLD VIC
Box Office: 071 928 7416 or 793 0600 (Agency with no bkg fee) Credit Cards: 071 793 1000, 179 4444, 497 9977 (all with bkg fee)



BACK COPIES
AVAILABLE
FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS

NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEWSPAPERS LTD
BACK DATES
P.O. Box 481
VIRGINIA STREET
LONDON E1 9BD

071-782 6127
071-782 6128

UNICORN THEATRE FOR CHILDREN
6-7 Great Newport Street, London WC2
BOX OFFICE 071 836 3334

OPENS SAT 26th JAN IN REPERTOIRE

FRANKIE'S MONSTER
from the book 'The Monster Garden'
by Vivian Alcock
adapted by Dave Samuels
FOR PEOPLE OVER 8

STIG OF THE DUMP
by Clive King
adapted by Richard Williams
FOR PEOPLE OVER 5
OPENS SAT 9th FEB

SATS, SUNS and SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2.30pm

Well represented forces: John Tomlinson as Hagen (left) and René Kollo as Siegfried in David Pountney's production of *Götterdämmerung*.

The Royal Opera's new *Ring* has reached its end, but not yet its beginning: *Das Rheingold* will follow in the autumn when two complete cycles are to be given, allowing us to discover the language of Götze Friedrich's production and Bernard Haitink's conducting. For the moment, this *Götterdämmerung* looks and sounds a lot more successful than its two predecessors.

Haitink is a master of the deep plumbing of Wagner's orchestration, and if the low brass were occasionally caught out last night, for most of the time they provided an emphatic base and often a richly malign reminder of the wrongness at work. The glowering accompaniment to the Hagen-Alberich scene was strongly laid out, though there was the same sort of immediacy and determination in the very different, thoroughly delightful orchestral sounds of the scene between Siegfried and the Rhinemaidens.

OPERA

Rusalka Coliseum

**Aujourd'hui c'est
mon anniversaire
Centre Georges
Pompidou**

LAST December the 75-year-old Polish theatre director Tadeusz Kantor died of a heart attack halfway through rehearsing his latest piece. *Aujourd'hui c'est mon anniversaire* (Today It's My Birthday). That was not unexpected: he was well-known for his fits of rage when his actors displeased him. Many of them had worked with his company, Cricot 2, for over 20 years. He even tried sacking half the group during the rehearsals

whose invocations to nature, gloriously sung by Judith Howarth, Anne Mason and Jane Turner, were intoxicating.

It would be wrong, though, to suggest this was a musical performance of high-fit moments. Indeed, what was most remarkable was Haitink's consistency of impetus, over wide ranges of tempo and across abrupt shifts of tone. The musical interest was kept fiercely keen even when the orchestra falls away to leave two or three woodwind instruments playing slowly alone, and sometimes a sudden pianissimo seemed to have arrived with a crescendo that it demanded a closer attention.

The accompaniment was also beautifully matched to the voices, seeming to provide just the right acoustic habitation, and to switch effortlessly from one to another, as when the chorus in the second act (here singing magnificently) gives way to Guenther's first pronunciation. This liaison with the stage, in matters of pacing as well as volume and timbre, appeared to be growing through the performance, or perhaps the reaction was going with greater conviction (though still with occa-

ground. The style – innovative, elegant and seductive – was in danger of being lotted to the point where icon became cliché. The miracle is that the great original still works.

The way in which Pointney derives down from the other *Udine* – the strange, water-saturated, subconscious, a single, strangely physical tale of his own telling, has always been a risk. The myth's impossible marriage of heaven and hell, the elemental and the worldly, the animus and the anima becomes a simple story of growing up. Meaning which is so specifically played out is inevitably limited in its resonance; but this *Rusalka* has always reverberated with a single-minded belief in itself. Its dramatic conviction is as strong as ever: its visual emblems as potent.

If the staging is generally more powerful in this opera, that may be partly because the "time tunnel" designed by Peter Szykora, is more appropriate for the finale of doom and entrapment than it was for the outdoor spaces of *The Walküre* and *Siegfried*. The uniform colour scheme of black, grey and white, with occasional touches of dull red and of metallic green for the Rhinemaidens, is also sombrely in keeping, especially for a production in which Hagen is a brooding presence almost throughout, but missing in the first act before the Waltraute episode and closely observant of the immolation.

This usefully adds to John Tomlinson's opportunities in what is a striking portrayal: tense and always watchful in the way he holds himself, he maintains the sense of determination by his particular use of consonants to scour the line with a rasping darkness. Since there is also an effective Alberich from Roderick Earle – nicely light-voiced, with an edge of weirdness used to scratch at the words – the forces of

Only now, seven years on, has the focus slipped a little. In this corporeal, if whimsically surreal, production, the movement of body, voice and orchestra has to be needle-sharp, finely poised. If not, kitsch is just round the corner. It comes perilously near at this time in the lusty trios of the *Three Kings*, the routing of the rag dolls, the ruse of the *Three Kings*. This is partly a question of some less than rigorous aerobics. But it is mainly because Stuart Calder's indiscriminate conducting sweeps all before it, softening the spring in the dance, masking the penetrating little "sorrow" figures in the score. Too often, he allows its aqueous textures to stagnate and blurs the conflicting images of earth and water as they struggle for the soul of Rusalka.

Lighter, more transparent or-

night are well represented.

But this is altogether a strong cast. René Kollo as Siegfried sings with renowned vigour and humour. Hanna Schwarz as Waltraute, though a bit wild at the extremes of the range, is full of insistent energy and musical point. Kathryn Harries, after some problems in Act I, was showing the force of a strong, sharply focused low register in Guttrune's music. And Donald Maxwell did everything right to project an amusing-apprising image of Gunther as a wet and feeble dope.

Above all there is Gwyneth Jones. One could happily forget all the old results of her earlier part of the performance for final scene where the big phrases were projected with absolutely steady, ringing fullness, and where the call to Wotan to rest was given touchingly and perfectly with the palest, quietest tone. After this the stage picture goes through several rapid transformations, with seven gods going up in flames on a projection, and then finally with seven white-hooded figures appearing in the tunnel. Are we ready to begin again?

PAUL GRIFFITHS

chestral playing would have helped Nancy Gustafson, too. Her Ruskalka has a smouldering, prepubescent sensuality all its own, sung out in full-voiced ardour but articulated less than clearly. Many a fine line is lost: she could take a trip or two from the flinty, glinting depiction of Felicity Plamby, whose terrifying Jerababa is now one in a fine line of Coliseum witches.

Gracie Matson-Bruce, the Prince, has more stamina than song in him, unlike Norman Bailey, whose grandfatherly Water Spirit glides in his wheelchair in solicitous legato. Kristine Ciechanowski rises to her scarlet woman role of the Foreign Princess, and Ethna Robinson, a bouncy Kitchen Boy, tumbles and teases the fun out of both Dvořák and Pountney.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRES

[illegible]

11:00 (Fri) BOY
11:15 (Sat) BOY
11:30 (Sun) BOY
11:45 (Mon) BOY
12:00 (Tue) BOY
12:15 (Wed) BOY
12:30 (Thu) BOY
12:45 (Fri) BOY
13:00 (Sat) BOY
13:15 (Sun) BOY
13:30 (Mon) BOY
13:45 (Tue) BOY
14:00 (Wed) BOY
14:15 (Thu) BOY
14:30 (Fri) BOY
14:45 (Sat) BOY
15:00 (Sun) BOY
15:15 (Mon) BOY
15:30 (Tue) BOY
15:45 (Wed) BOY
16:00 (Thu) BOY
16:15 (Fri) BOY
16:30 (Sat) BOY
16:45 (Sun) BOY
17:00 (Mon) BOY
17:15 (Tue) BOY
17:30 (Wed) BOY
17:45 (Thu) BOY
18:00 (Fri) BOY
18:15 (Sat) BOY
18:30 (Sun) BOY
18:45 (Mon) BOY
19:00 (Tue) BOY
19:15 (Wed) BOY
19:30 (Thu) BOY
19:45 (Fri) BOY
20:00 (Sat) BOY
20:15 (Sun) BOY
20:30 (Mon) BOY
20:45 (Tue) BOY
21:00 (Wed) BOY
21:15 (Thu) BOY
21:30 (Fri) BOY
21:45 (Sat) BOY
22:00 (Sun) BOY
22:15 (Mon) BOY
22:30 (Tue) BOY
22:45 (Wed) BOY
23:00 (Thu) BOY
23:15 (Fri) BOY
23:30 (Sat) BOY
23:45 (Sun) BOY
24:00 (Mon) BOY

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

5 ASP ARKADIA (13): Mel Gibson and Robert Downey Jr. as two quick wits mind in an off-shoot of the Vietnam war. Loud, crass, and charming.
 American Shakespearean Avenue (71) 636 9595
 American Shakespearean Avenue (71) 636 9545
 Meszianine (71) 630 6111) Whiskies (71) 722 3303/3304.

AKIRA (12): Apocalyptic mayhem in a futuristic Tokyo. Lushly but tactless Japanese animated feature, inspired by its comic book source. (71) 630 6111
 ICA Cinema (71) 630 3674

6 ARACHNOPHOBIA (PG): Densely spiders rampage through a cozy Californian community. Enjoyable thriller filled with creepy arachnids.
 Cannon Channel (71) 632 5588) Odeon Meszianine (71) 630 6111) Whiskies (71) 437 9895) American Shakespearean Avenue (71) 630 9595/9596.

7 CATCHER (13): Daff, nudged tale of a mob hitman (Cann Chaleen) bawling in love with a woman (Cann Chaleen) who is the (Cann Foster). Hopper also directs, under a pseudonym.
 Cannon Channel (71) 632 5588) Odeon Meszianine (71) 630 6111) Whiskies (71) 437 9895) American Shakespearean Avenue (71) 630 9595/9596.

C ALL THINGS NINE: An accomplished cast director, Joanna Roth's first work with conflicting sexual stigmas is a self-direction by Sharon Lammington, "NINE," GWI (07-1290, 730 1746). Underground, Squire Square, Miami Beach, Fla., 40x. Running time: 18 min.

C CHILDREN OF EDEN: George studied several roles from books, supplied by John Cleland and Stephen Schwartz; react against your mothers' energies as the main theme.

C CHUCK AND THE GIRL: A young man, WI (07-1734 9851). Underground, Lakeside School, Seattle, Wash., 7:40pm, runs Thurs, Sat, Sun, 10:30pm.

C FALLUEN ANGEL: The troubled reminiscences of Franz Fubiner's communist academic and ex-Heller writer; affecting performance by David Hirschman. Run Wed, Thurs, Sat, 8pm, Blue Green, WDI (06-1734 3369). Underground, Squire Square, Miami Beach, Fla., opens February 23.

C FIVE GLASS NAMED MOE: Marvellous performance by Louis Jarno numbers. An evening of joy.

C GUN: Shakespeare Avenue, WI (07-147 5816).

C HONOR: Underground: Pissbury, Miami Beach, Fla., 10:30pm.

[illegible]

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC (U): Gerard Depardieu resplendent as the lovelorn, long-nosed Cyrano; director Jean-Paul Rappoort; music by Jean-François Lesautour's play into magnificent, swooning musical. **Charles Chelvest** (U7-1551 3742) **Globe** **Charles Chelvest** (U7-1551 3742) **London** **Charles Chelvest** (U7-1551 3742) **Manor** (U7-1551 3742)

THE GARDEN (15): The Passion according to Derek Jacobi — a powerful, elegant depiction of the English aristocracy's decay and the dawn of gay sex. **Caroleen Piazza** (U7-465 2434)

© HAVANA (15): Robert Redford as the gambler entangled by a mysterious woman (Lena Horne) who seduces him with Cuban romantic charm with paper-thin characters. **Director, Sydney Pollack** (U7-535 5772) **Filmfare** **Robert Redford** (U7-782 3303/3304)

© HENRY AND JUNE (15): Anne Boleyn's passionate affair with Henry VIII, and in between, Philip, married to Anne's sister, a grandiose fail by director Philip Kaufman. **Empire** (U7-467 9889)

HIDDEN AGENDA (15): Ken Loach and Alan Clarke's angry look at British class struggle in *The Underconstabulary*. **Caroleen Piazza** (U7-389 1827) **Oxford Screen** (U7-535 0330)

© HOME ALONE (PG): Patrick O'Neal leading burglars, Brown, machine-tongued American family fun from new producer John Hughes. **Director, John Hughes** (U7-589 0313) **Warner** (U7-438 0781) **Wendolyns** (U7-782 3303/3304)

NEWYORKIAN (15): What William's wife can't tell him about the manners set among New York's debutantes and proprieties over one Christmas holiday. Why do you love elegant director Barbra Streisand? **Director, Barbra Streisand** (U7-438 0891) **Caroleen Piazza** (U7-465 2434) **London** (U7-437 0572) **Manor** (U7-437 0572)

© MIRACLE MILE (15): Two shy lovers find their romance interrupted by an impending war. A bright, smart, and funny film from promising director David Mamet. **Anthony**

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

- ☒ House full, returns only
- ☒ Some seats available
- ☐ Seats at all prices

■ **INTO THE WOODS:** Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales; greater than Grimm in that it has better tunes than *Beauty and the Beast*. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 8861). Running time: 2:00pm, 8:15pm, 10:15pm. Underground: Tottenham Court Road, 5pm, Sat, 2:30pm. Running time: 2hs 15mins.

■ **I THOUGHT I HEARD A MURDERING:** Annette Bening and Paul Giamatti in a meandering but chirpy Alan Ayckbourn comedy about a threatened family dinner. Theatrical, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-306 5510). Running time: 1:30pm, 8pm. Underground: EPC, Stratford, Mon-Sat, 9pm. Running time: 2hs. Closed: Sunday 16.

■ **NO ONE WROTE TO THE COLONEL:** Bernard Hepton as the patient war veteran who saves the world from the creation of the Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel. Little, Lyttelton, King's Road, W6 (081-744 1111). Running time: 7:30pm, 9:30pm, 11:30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 4:30pm. Running time: 2hs 15mins. Closed: Friday 16.

■ **OUT OF ORDER:** Donald Sinden puts, Michael Williams panics, in *leisest Ray Cooney* farce; over-plotted, under-delivered. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5389). Underground: Holborn, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 7:30pm, Sun, 7pm, Sat, 5:30pm. Running time: 2hs 15mins.

■ **THE REDWATER:** Ian McEwan's stylish production (costumes by Jasper Carrott) of Anouilh's seduction play. Theatrical, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 5107). Running time: 7:30pm, 9:30pm, Sat, 7:45pm, Sat, 8pm, mat. Tue, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hs 30mins.

■ **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW:** Flaccid and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes offending more than it entertains. Theatrical, Dominion Street, W1 (071-567 1119). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 7:30pm, Sun, 8:15pm. Running time: 1hr 30min.

■ **THREE SISTERS:** Three Pedigree in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older women, Susan's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-

COLLEGIUM, St Martin's Place, London WC2
Tel: 01-836 3161, 7.30pm.

BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA Paul Crossley, appt in 20th-century music, performs Liszt's *Walden* and a new 20th-century light programme which includes Brahms's *Tragic Overture* and a *Waltz* by Smetana, under the direction of Matthew Barnes.
Woodlands Arts Centre, Kingsland Road, Poole
01302 626222, 7.30pm.

ABC WELSH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA The five featured soloists accompany Ciolek who conducts tonight's performance which includes the two musical adaptations of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* by Prokofiev and Shostakovich, as well as Smetana's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* (with pianist Ciolek Ouster).
Theatre Royal, Victoria Road, Liverpool
0151-708 3769, 7.30pm.

ELDER WITH THE SOO: The much-loved bassist Mark Elder joins the bandaged

[illegible]

NARROW MARGIN (15): Cat-and-mouse games on a train, with district attorney Gene Hackman, murder witness Anne Archer and the Mob. Diluted remake of a taut B-movie classic. Director, Peter Hyams. Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE NASTY GIRL (PG) Provocative, funny spoof on Germany's Nazi past, with Lene Bausager as the girl uncovers her home town's Nazi past. Writer-director, Michael Haughefer
Cannon Channel (PG-13) 7-262 9086 Metro
(PG-13) (437 037) Screen on the Hill (1-435 3366)

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE (PG) Cautious Times comes with a love letter to Florida's novel, Shirley MacLaine as the drug-addicted actress, Stanley MacLaine as her mother. Director, John Dahl
Cannon Channel (PG-13) (437 600 6111)

QUEEN OF FORTUNE (PG-13) Jennifer Jones as the insouciant Countess of Bulow, misled for the attempted murder of his wife, Silent universe of a notable actress, director, John Dahl
Clydeburn Parkway (PG-13) 7-267 7034 Notting Hill Coroner (PG-13) 7-267 0070 Odessa
Hollywood (PG-13) 7-267 7607

THE RICHES (PG-13) Swiss Cottage (PG-13) 7-262 5900 Screen on Baker Street (PG-13) 7-265 2772

ROCKY IV (PG) Sylvester Stallone fights the evil boxer, his family, career and ego. Directed and to the boxing stage, director, John Avildsen
Cannon Channel (PG-13) (437 600 6006) Odessa
Cannon Channel (PG-13) 7-262 5944/5 Metro
(PG-13) 7-262 0111 Swiss Cottage (PG-13) 7-262 5900 Screen on Baker Street (PG-13) 7-265 2772
Whiteleys (PG-13) 7-262 3303/3304

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (PG-13) Showman produced, the first of the famous, a huge La (PG-13) 7-262 5900 Screen on Baker Street (PG-13) 7-265 2772
Whiteleys (PG-13) 7-262 3303/3304

THE SHELTERING SKY (PG) A chilling novel (by Peter Gouws) filmed with a warning silent swamp by Karlene and Deane Winter, with Odessa: Karlene Winter (PG-13) 7-262 5944/5
Metro (PG-13) 7-262 5900 Screen on Baker Street (PG-13) 7-265 2772
Whiteleys (PG-13) 7-262 3303/3304

72A 118B) Underdogdom: Pileology Cries
Mon-Sat, 7:30pm, Wed, Sat, 2:30pm.
Running time: 3hrs. Closed March 2.

■ **TIME AND THE CONWAYNS:** Joan
Powright and loss of self as Playdoy's
nursemaid. 1968 (wides) and 1983.
Old Film, Waterloo Road, SF (U7-428)
7618). Underdogdom: Waterloo, Wides
7:30pm and 2:30pm, Wed, Sat, 2:30pm,
Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 35mins. Closed
February 16.

■ **WHAT THE BUTLER SAID:** Incest,
sexual and brutal jingoism against
America. 1934 (wides), New York City
censor production but worth seeing.
Wynemath's, Charing Cross Road, WC2
07-487 1114 Underdogdom: Waterloo,
Strand, Mon-Fri, 7:45pm, Sat, Fri, Sat, 8pm
and 8:40pm. Running time: 2hrs.

■ **WHERE JULIE GOES:** Jealousie
Harrison's poignant, anecdotal account of life
as an unidentified wife of an unnamed model.
1971 (wides). The Picture Palace, 101
Chancery Lane, WC2A 0PL Underdogdom: NT
(U7-259 1030). Underdogdom: Highbury &
Islington, Tues-Sun, 8pm. Running time:
2hrs 25mins. Closed February 16.

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** An
adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's idyllic story
set popping up on the river, with Griff
Rhys Jones, Richard Briers and all.
Nelson's (Owlsey), South Street, E1
3JL (U7-434 1217). Underdogdom: Waterloo,
Today, 2pm and 7:20pm. Running time:
2hrs 45mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ■ Adam Pearce: *Singalong* Underdogdom: U7-457 1179

■ **A Aspects of Love:** Prince of Wales
(U7-438 5972). ■ **B Blood Brothers:** Albany
(U7-438 5972). ■ **C Back to Back:** Albany
(U7-438 5972). ■ **D Cat in the Hat:**
(U7-438 5972). ■ **E 0045 0072).** ■ **F Hidden**
Lighthouse Vaseville: U7-438
5972). ■ **G Hush:** U7-438 5972). ■ **H**
I Am Not a Saint: U7-438 5972). ■ **J**
K Lullaby: U7-438 5972). ■ **L Last**
Mistake: Palace (U7-438 5972). ■ **M**
Night of the Living Dead: U7-438 5972).
Royal, Daily Drive (U7-438 5972). ■ **O**
P The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972). ■ **Q**
R The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972). ■ **S**
T The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972). ■ **U**
V The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972). ■ **W**
X The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972). ■ **Y**
Z The Phantom of the Opera: U7-438 5972).

■ **Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **S Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **T Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **U Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **V Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **W Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **X Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **Y Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972). ■ **Z Shirley Valentine:** Days of York's (U7-438 5972).

■ **The Woman in Black:** Fortes (U7-438 5972).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatres

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Rodgers and Hammerstein's popular musical, *The King and I*, arrives on the London stage. The production is directed by James Hammerstein and stars the original Broadway cast. The melodramatic English governor and the shrewish Madame Tse, one of Japan's leading actors, as mighty King Siem. The show has already been seen in New York, Los Angeles, Edinburgh and Birmingham. Next stop: Manchester.

Sadler's Wells, Rosebury Avenue, London WC2H 9PP 076 8896, 7.30pm.

POETRY READINGS: The latest South Bank "New Voices" series spotlights two young poets: American poetess and David Motley, who have won the Eric Gregory Award in recent years.

Voice Box, Level 6 (Red Side), South Bank, London SE1 8AA 071 232 3111, 7.30pm.

[illegible]

9661 METROPOLITAN (118
 Props at 2.00 (not Sun) 4.20.
 6.30, 8.40 Last Week From Fri
 DECEMBER WEEK (C-C)

CURSON WEST END Shaftesbury
 Avenue W/ 071 439 4806
 Decs 1st in THE POOL (A)
 Props at 2.15, 5.15 & 8.15.
 Christine Edwards

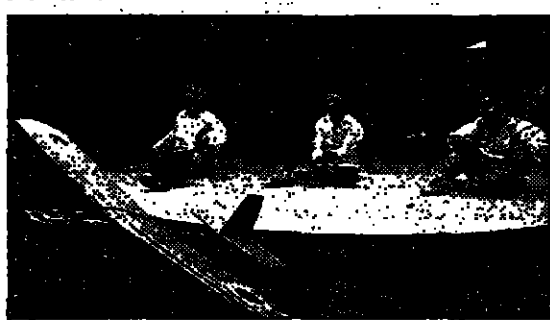
Best 5.30 &
PRICE
YEAR
APRIL 25

ENTERTAINMENTS
ADVERTISEMENT IN
THE TIMES

TELEPHONE NO. 671-4811 1979
ADVERTISING FAX NO.
671-481 9313
TELEX
925068

YOU MAY USE YOUR ACCESS,
AMEX, DINERS OR VISA CARD

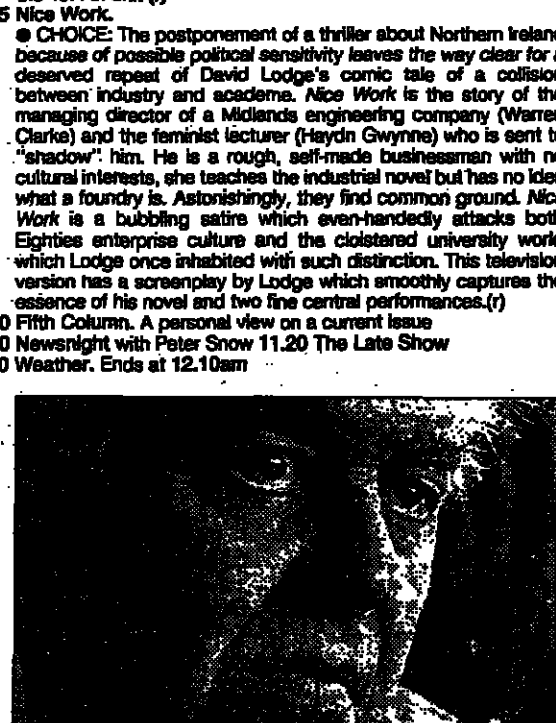
6.00 **Celebs**
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer.
9.15 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glik hosts a discussion on the effect of infidelity on a modern marriage. **9.55** **Regional News** and weather.
10.00 **News** 10.05 **Playdays** with Eithne Hannigan and Will Branton.
10.30 **Brainwaves**, Quiz presented by Andy Craig. **10.50** **Dish** of the Day prepared by Rosemary Moon.
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather. **11.05** **People Today** introduced from Manchester by Aileen Mills and Debi Jones. Including **Portrait of Africa**, in which celebrities recall their childhoods in conversation with their mothers.
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather. **12.05** **Happy Memories**: Cliff Michmore and Wendy Gibson invite viewers to recall happy memories. **12.20** **Scene Today**: The daily entertainment show from Pebble Mill, with guests, features and music. **12.55** **Regional News** and weather.
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. **Weather**.
1.05 **Neighbours**. (CeeFax) **1.50** **Going for Gold**: European general knowledge quiz hosted by Henry Kelly.
2.15 **Rising from Ashes**: Brian introduces live coverage of the 2.30, 3.05 and 3.35 races.
3.50 **Bodger and Badger**, Episode five of the 12-part children's comedy series. **4.05** **Jimbo** and the Jet Set. **Cartoon** (r) **4.10** **Jackanory**. Jane Asher with part three of George MacDonald's *The Princess and the Goblin*. **4.25** **The Chipmunks**. **4.35** **Potsworth and Co.** **Cartoon** adventures.
5.00 **Round the Five Children** series. Continuing E. Nesbit's tale about the five children whose dreams are realised by a sand fairy, but never in quite the way they expect. (CeeFax)
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (CeeFax) **Northern Ireland**: Sportsweek. **5.40** **Inside Ulster**.
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Andrew Harvey and Anna Ford. **Weather**.
6.30 **Childhood News**: Neighbours. **6.40** **Cartoon**.
7.05 **Wagtail**: Among the guests tonight are the Hollywood actor Kevin Costner and Spender's Jimmy Nail. Providing the music is Kevin Costner's *Millions*.
7.35 **Doogie Howser, MD**: Far-fetched American comedy about a teenage doctor starring Neil Patrick Harris and Max Casella. (CeeFax)
8.00 **Waterfront Beat**: A series in danger of drowning unless it makes a bit more noise, about a police division on a dockland waterfront. (CeeFax)
8.50 **Points of View**: Anne Robinson with viewers' responses to BBC programmes and the occasional clip.
9.00 **Midday News** with Martin Lewis. (CeeFax) **Regional news** and weather.



Plane talk: the cabbie, the housewife and the waitress (8.35pm)

9.35 Q.E.D.: Why Planes Fly - and Other Things.
 ● **CHOICE**: Referring to its original brief of putting forward a proposition and then testing it, QED seeks to demonstrate (a little patronisingly) that even ordinary people can understand how an aeroplane stays in the sky if only they are told the right way to go about it. The host is John Durant, who would surely be a television regular if he did not occasionally have another job, professor of the history and public understanding of science at Imperial College, London. Recruiting as guinea pigs a cabbie, a waitress and a housewife, Durant first lets them loose on a motor move before moving on to aeroplanes and the mysteries of thrust, drag and lift. The main point of the exercise is to show that it is much easier to learn the principles of science through practical demonstrations than by reading textbooks. Some of us might have thought this is a reasonable idea, but it is still a dubious proposition. (CeeFax)
10.05 **Sportsnight**: Steve Rider introduces coverage of tonight's friendly football international between England and Cameroon. There are also highlights of Scotland's friendly against the Soviet Union at Ibrox. Snooker action comes from the £200,000 first prize in the Benson and Hedges Masters. There is also a preview of the first round of the rugby league challenge cup which takes place over the weekend.
12.05am **News** and weather. Ends at 12.20

8.00 **News** 8.15 **Westminster**.
9.00 **Daytime on Two**: Final part of *Buddy* starring Roger Daltry. **9.30** **Maths**: boxes 8.45. **Solence** for 8.45 and 8.50-9.00. **10.00** **A miscellany** for four and five-year-olds. **10.15** **Machines** that can see inside humans. **10.40** **The Caledonians** and the Romans. **11.00** **Learning to read**. **11.15** **Teenagers** debate the pros and cons of zoos. **11.35** **For language teachers**. **12.10** **Science**: electricity. **12.30** **Satir** sat. **12.55** **Help** with everyday maths. **1.20** **Pie in the Sky**. **1.40** **Breeding**.
2.00 **News** and weather followed by *You and Me* (r).
2.15 **Snooker**: Tony Gibbs introduces the last day of the second round matches in the Benson and Hedges Masters from the Wembley Conference Centre, London.
3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
3.55 **Snooker**: Further coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters.
5.10 **Horizon**: *Small Problem With The Mirror*. One little mistake by man becomes a giant mistake for mankind. The trouble in the Hubble space telescope and its effect. How the astronomers who had waited 13 years for its launch (r). (CeeFax)
6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**. Two crew members of the Enterprise are facing grueling tests. The first is Wesley, who beams down to Rivia 7 to take the Starfleet Academy entrance exam. The second is Captain Picard, under investigation by Lt Commander T'Pol, who is assessing Picard's leadership ability. When a violent man attempts to commit suicide by travelling into space in a damaged shuttle, Picard embarks on a rescue mission, but will he succeed with Picard's breathing down his neck? Starring Patrick Stewart. (CeeFax)
6.50 **DEF** begins with Reportage, Amrita Fome and her trendy team of journalists investigate what has gone wrong with the nuclear family.
7.40 **Snooker**: Further coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters from the Wembley Conference Centre.
8.10 **Bookman**: *Deafness - the Life of David Wright*. ● **CHOICE**: James Runcie's film about the poet David Wright is as much about the experience of deafness as it is a literary portrait. In Wright's case, the two are inseparable. At the age of seven he contracted a severe bout of scarlet fever and came near to death. His life was saved but not his hearing. Forced to abandon an early passion for music he turned to writing poetry. At the heart of the film is an autobiographical journey, in which Wright traces his life from a wealthy family background in South Africa to Harley Street, Cambridge, the poet culture of Scho and marriage to an actress. While not trying to disguise the isolation and social embarrassment which deafness can bring, it is an uplifting story with some sadness but little self-pity. Runcie widens his investigation into what it means to be deaf by including contributions from the percussionist Evelyn Glennie and the MP Jack Ashley. (CeeFax)
9.00 **MAA-214**. More legends and black humour from the medics of the 407th Unit (r).
9.25 **New Work**.
 ● **CHOICE**: The postponement of a thriller about Northern Ireland because of possible political sensitivity leaves the way clear for a deserved repeat of David Lodge's comic tale of a collision between industry and academia. *Not a Word* is the story of the managing director of a Midlands engineering company (Warren Clarke) and the feminist lecturer (Haydn Gwynne) who is sent to "shadow" him. He is a rough, self-made businessman with no cultural interests, she teaches the industrial world but has no idea what a foundry is. Astonishingly, they find common ground. *New Work* is a bubbling satire which ever-handy attacks both English enterprise culture and the classless university world which Lodge once inhabited with such distinction. This television version has a screenplay by Lodge which smoothly captures the essence of his novel and two fine central performances (r).
10.20 **Fifth Column**. A personal view on a current issue.
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow. **11.20** **The Late Show**.
12.00 **Weather**. Ends at 12.10am



Turning a deaf ear to his disability: David Wright (8.10pm)

8.00 **TV-am** presented by Maya Even and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news on the hour and bulletins on the half hour. Plus reports on the situation in the Gulf from correspondents in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Israel and Washington.
9.25 **Gulf News Report** 9.55 **Thames News** and weather.
10.00 **The Time**... The Place... Anne Soubry hosts the peripatetic discussion show.
10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Denise Robertson, the resident agony aunt, is on hand to help viewers with their problems. Plus Elaine Lipworth's Stateside celebrity review, includes at national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news headlines at 11.55 followed by national weather.
12.05 **Airsports**. Jane, Benzo and Jiffy start guessing which things weigh more than others. **12.25** **Thames News** and weather.
12.30 **News** and weather.
1.20 **Home and Away**. Drama serial about an Australian couple and their foster children. **1.50** **A Country Practice**. Australian soap set in a small rural community. **2.20** **Take The High Road**. Highland comedy.
2.50 **Give Us A Clue**. Celebrity charades hosted by Michael Parkinson, with regular team captains Lesa Goddard and Lionel Blair. This afternoon they are joined by Marti Caine, Fiona Hendley, Tessa Sanderson, Paul Jones, Jess Conrad and Dave Lee Travis.
3.15 **Gulf News Report** 3.20 **Thames News** headlines. **3.25** **The Young Doctors**.
3.55 **Young Doctors** & Friends. Cartoon fun (r) **4.05** **Mike & Angelo**. Another adventure with the King family and their rather strange friend 4.30 **Roll's Cartoon Club** presented by Roll Hams.
5.00 **Home and Away** (r).
5.25 **Thames** (r). **5.30** **Thames** (r).
5.35 **Thames** (r).
6.00 **Blockbusters**. Trivia game general knowledge quiz game.
6.30 **Thames News** and weather.
7.00 **This Is Your Life**. Michael Aspel and his famous red book surprise yet another worthy.
7.30 **Coronation Street**. More drama from the regulars of the Rovers.
8.00 **Gulf News Report**.



Warriors of the Word: Geoffrey Bayldon, Anna Cropper (8.05pm)

8.05 **Van Der Valk**. Worthy revival of the Dutch-based crime series, first seen in the early Seventies. In tonight's story by Peter Buckman a hippy heroin addict with a cut following in the Amsterdam comedy scene is murdered and events are set in motion that leave Van der Valk (Bary Foster) trailing one step behind. In an attempt to uncover the truth, the detective finds himself involved with a bizarre religious sect, called "The Warriors of the Word", and a mixed bunch of bachelors and radicals. (Oracle)
10.00 **News** at Ten (Oracle) and weather. **10.45** **Thames News** and weather.
10.55 **Film: Bachelor Party** (1984). Raunchy comedy with Tom Hanks as Rick, a bus driver about to marry an upper crust young woman, Candice (Tawny Kinsman). Her parents are less than happy with the match and ask Cole (Robert Prescott) to do all he can to stop the wedding. Meanwhile, Rick's friends are about to make his last 24 hours as a single man memorable. Starts promisingly but deteriorates into a series of vulgar sketches. Written and directed by Neal Israel.
1.00 **Kojak: The Computer**. The New York detective investigates the mugging and murder of a jeweller.
2.00 **Chess**. Raymond Kopaev, chess correspondent of The Times, has the latest news from the Short v Spelman match.
2.15 **Videofashion**. A guide to fashion shops.
2.40 **America's Top Ten** with Casey Kasem and Tommy Puett.
3.10 **Quiz Night** hosted by Martin Ross.
3.40 **The Channon & Ball Video Show**. Mick Channon and Alan Ball, the former England international, recall some memorable league and cup football at Wembley.
4.40 **Fifty Years On** (by) Newsweek from 1941.
5.00 **TV Morning News**. Ends at 6.00

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** with extended news on the war in the Gulf.
9.25 **Schools**.
12.00 **Channel 4 News Summary**.
12.05 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron, with reports from Nicholas Woolley.
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news, presented by Susanah Simons.
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Informative and entertaining programme for pre-school children.
2.00 **Film: Song of the Islands** (1942) starring Betty Grable and Victor Mature. Romantic musical set on a Hawaiian island about the son and daughter of rival land owners who fall in love and out of love against a background of breathtaking settings and chirpy songs. Directed by Walter Lang.
3.25 **Mirrors to the Fun**. A history of travelling fairs in Britain.
4.00 **Great British Isles: Jersey - A Different Country**. Novelist Leslie Thomas asks whether Jersey is becoming too attractive for its own good. Despite being only ten miles by sea, it has a population of 80,000 which is steadily growing, with an influx of holidaymakers and tax exiles. Thomas also looks at the invaders of Jersey over the centuries (r).
4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whiteley hosts the word and number quiz, helped by Martin Jarvis.
5.00 **The Adventures of TinTin**. Episode seven of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r).
5.05 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Actress and singer Cher joins Oprah to chat about Sonoma, her children, the tabloid press and her new movie *Memoirs*.
6.00 **The Wonder Years**. Emmy award-winning comedy about being a teenager in the Sixties. Stars Fred Savage (r).
6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. The guests are Roger Daltrey, actress Margi Clavin and Guitierrez's Jim Bowen.
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext)
7.50 **Party Political Comment** by a Labour party politician. Followed by *Breakthrough*.
8.00 **Brookside**. More soul-baring with the residents of a Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 **Dispatches**. Reports from the turbulent republics of the Soviet Union on how the crackdown on nationalism could lead to military dictatorship or civil war.
9.15 **Short and Curly: A Nice Arrangement**. Tania Rodrigues as a young Londoner who has to decide whether she should marry the fiancé arranged for her by her family or stay with her boyfriend. With Meera Syal and Jamie Messer. (Oracle)
9.30 **Matters of Taste: Behind the Swing Door**. Jancie Robinson with the last programme of her series on food and drink. Tonight she goes behind the scenes of the restaurant trade. Are restaurants a rip-off or do people who work in the industry find themselves heading for an early grave? To answer these questions Robinson investigates the Michelin-starred *Aubergine* of Norwich and listens to the lament of restaurant critic Fay Maschler. (Teletext)
10.00 **Film: Insignificance** (1985).
 ● **CHOICE**: Although the principal characters are known only as the Professor, the Actress, the Senator and the Ballplayer, their identities should not be a mystery for a very long. Theresa Russell may be on the thin side for Marilyn Monroe but no other actress has had her skirt blown above her waist by a gust from a subway grate. Other pointed clues reveal that the professor is Albert Einstein, the senator Joe McCarthy and the ball player Monroe's husband, Joe Di Maggio. Tony Johnson's script (based on his stage play) imagines them meeting at the Roosevelt hotel in New York in 1954. With four such luminaries, the dialogue is often intriguing and never quite what you expect. Michael Emili, Tony Curtis and Gary Busey complete the cast and the director, backing a favourite theme of illusion and reality, is Nicolas Roeg. (Oracle)
12.00 **Channel 4 News - Midnight Special**. Ends at 2.00am



Professor and actress: Michael Emili, Theresa Russell (10.00pm)

10.00 **Film: Insignificance** (1985).
 ● **CHOICE**: Although the principal characters are known only as the Professor, the Actress, the Senator and the Ballplayer, their identities should not be a mystery for a very long. Theresa Russell may be on the thin side for Marilyn Monroe but no other actress has had her skirt blown above her waist by a gust from a subway grate. Other pointed clues reveal that the professor is Albert Einstein, the senator Joe McCarthy and the ball player Monroe's husband, Joe Di Maggio. Tony Johnson's script (based on his stage play) imagines them meeting at the Roosevelt hotel in New York in 1954. With four such luminaries, the dialogue is often intriguing and never quite what you expect. Michael Emili, Tony Curtis and Gary Busey complete the cast and the director, backing a favourite theme of illusion and reality, is Nicolas Roeg. (Oracle)
12.00 **Channel 4 News - Midnight Special**. Ends at 2.00am

ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Anglia News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
BORDER
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Border News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
CENTRAL
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Central News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
CHANNEL
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Channel News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
GRAMSLAY
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Gramslay News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.

TSW
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **TSW News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
TVS
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **TVS News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
TYNE TEES
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Tyne Tees News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
ULSTER
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Ulster News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
YORKSHIRE
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **Yorkshire News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.

SKY ONE
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **SKY ONE News** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
SKY NEWS
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **SKY NEWS** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
SKY MOVIES
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **SKY MOVIES** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.

EUROSPORT
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **EUROSPORT** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.
SCREENSPORT
 As London except: 6.00-6.30 **Blockbusters**.
6.00 **Home and Away** 6.30-7.00 **SCREENSPORT** 7.00-7.30 **12.30** **Quiz** 12.30-1.00 **Film: Mischief** 1.00-1.30 **Power**.

6.35am **Open University** (FM only).
6.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
7.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
8.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
9.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
10.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
11.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
12.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
1.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
2.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
3.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
4.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.05 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.10 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.15 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.20 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.25 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.30 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.35 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.40 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.45 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.50 **Morning News** (FM only).
5.55 **Morning News** (FM only).
6.00 **Morning News** (FM only).
6.05 **Morning News** (FM only).

Major's drive to end sanctions

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major and Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, agreed yesterday to work together in winning other Commonwealth heads of government round to the steady dismantling of sanctions against South Africa in response to President de Klerk's initiatives on ending apartheid.

In a 20-minute telephone call yesterday to the prime minister, Mr Hawke said Australia had played the leading role in the imposition of sanctions and now wanted to play a leading role in getting rid of them, beginning with those which were "people oriented". The two prime ministers believe sport should be an early target for the phased removal of sanctions and that it can happen piecemeal according to the degree of integration reached in particular sports.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Major told MPs that he and Mr Hawke "both very strongly agree that the time has come to begin lifting the Commonwealth measures, in particular the sports sanctions". He said: "President de Klerk has taken a truly massive move forward. It is for the international community to respond. I hope very much they will do so."

Mr Major, who believes Nelson Mandela is wrong to call for sanctions to be maintained, may visit South Africa at some stage and discuss the problem with him, although no date has yet been pencilled in. But he is anxious to stimulate progress on sanctions within the next few months, to prevent the issue once again dominating the Commonwealth heads of government meeting due in Harare, Zimbabwe in October.

A report by leading figures in the Commonwealth on the future of the organisation is intended to be the centrepiece of this year's meeting and Mr Major, who is keen to see new life breathed into the Commonwealth, wants that report to be the focus of this year's discussions. He and other leading heads of government in the Commonwealth have already had to postpone a meeting on the report which was due last month. If that session can be reconvened for June the prime minister will seek formal approval there for the unwinding of the Glensides agreement which binds the Commonwealth governments to discourage sporting links with South Africa.

Efforts by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to press the European Community to scrap its remaining sanctions against South Africa, covering the import of iron and steel, coal and krumkrands, have met a mixed response.

Message of peace, page 10



Thirty years on: Holy Loch protesters at the opening of the nuclear submarine base and (below) Americans leaving it yesterday

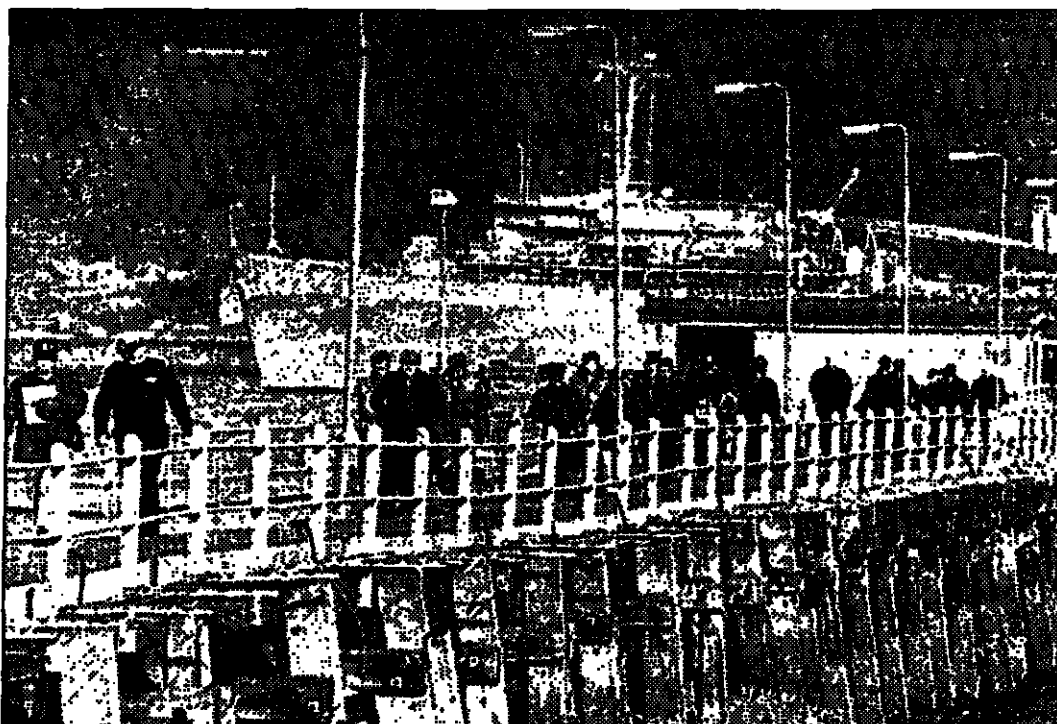
Holy Loch to close

Continued from page 1

aircraft will be based at Lakenheath as part of the restructuring of Nato nuclear forces. The bomber has nuclear and conventional capability.

Mr King said: "The government understands the reasons for these decisions, but none the less they still leave significant local economic consequences. The US government has been considering the arrangements it has for the forward support of its nuclear missile submarines and for the basing of its dual capable aircraft in the UK. They are not turning their back on Europe," he said. "They are not abandoning their commitment to Nato."

The closure of Holy Loch has been brought forward by the early withdrawal from service of the US Poseidon missile submarines.



Food-stocks warning as big freeze nears

By PETER VICTOR

A WARNING for members of the public to stock up with food and fuel and keep an eye on the elderly was issued yesterday by the meteorological office as the coldest weather for four years headed for Britain from central Russia.

Daytime temperatures are unlikely to rise above freezing when a cold pool of air arrives today, the meteorological office said. It threatens to bring the coldest weather since mid-January 1987, when the temperature in southern England did not rise above freezing for ten days. "We are expecting

a carbon copy of the January 1987 weather, except it is three weeks later," the Meteorological Centre in Bracknell said. "It is cold all over eastern Europe now and we will be getting the same cold pool which is moving this way."

The London Weather Centre said that when the cold snap arrives today there would be snow along the east coast which could spread inland and a biting easterly wind would make it seem even colder.

British Rail said anti-freeze, snowploughs and snow-blowers would ensure that commuters got to work on time. The transport

department said local authorities could be relied on to do what was necessary to keep the roads clear. Gatwick airport said it was "ready for anything the weather throws at us."

Dozens of deer, rabbits and sheep are thought to have starved to death on a tiny uninhabited island off the north Wales coast. The agriculture minister was called for investigations to see if the sudden cold snap was a contributing factor.

The weather was being blamed yesterday as a contributing factor in a unexplained explosion which rocked homes near Ipswich. Police

checked with power stations, air bases and emergency services but they provided no clues to the source of the noise. Scientists said yesterday that the noise was probably due to a sonic boom, accentuated by the high pressure centre which is contributing the freezing conditions.

Mrs Louise Martin, aged 83, died at of hypothermia despite burning her furniture to keep warm. She was found in her home at Wash Water near Newbury, Berks after a neighbour phoned the police. Social services had twice visited the house but Mrs Martin turned them away.

Political sketch

At last, all's right with the world

THOUGH winter held London in its sterile grip yesterday, spring came to Westminster. MPs were starting to fight.

Like crocus buds peeking through the snow, little Tory faces pinked with anger and little Labour faces contorted with hatred scowled (shyly at first) across the Chamber. Very tentatively, parliament was recovering its nerve. The winter of content was over. The spring of discord was here.

Heaven knows it has been a frozen season for all who have to earn a crumb here. Since the Gulf war began, harmony has settled over the House like a great white fluffy blanket of snow, throttling normal life. Government and Opposition have ceased ripping each other to bits, ministers-for-things-abroad have basked as back-benchers carol their praises, and ministers-for-things-at-home have played to empty houses.

John Major's performances at the dispatch box have met with as much analysis as a karaoke rendering of *Jingle Bells*. MPs were losing their sense of self-importance. For what purpose have they, but to fight? Key decisions are taken elsewhere; key information reaches them last; and the theory that the House is some kind of mega-think-tank of non-executive sages, bears no scrutiny. The Chamber is a boxing ring or it is nothing. To live, MPs must fight. To eat, we must report their battles. No battles, no news. No news, no newsmen.

One wondered how long this dreadful truce could go on. The wind howled around Big Ben, trees were bare. Beneath the amity, nothing stirred...

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) was the first cuckoo. His song rose in glorious rancour above the hibernating Chamber at PM's questions yesterday, waking all. "As the recession bites deeper in all parts of the country..." The famous Winnick sneer was unmistakable. Mr Major looked up in surprise. Since Christmas, the member for Walsall N (who strongly supports the Gulf war) has been singing the praises of government policy in the Middle East. Astonished ministers have re-

turned the compliment, admiring for the first time the wit and wisdom of Winnick.

...the country will not buy the nonsense that this recession is due to the Gulf... devastation... disastrous policies... Better and better! Labour MPs awoke from their torpor and from all around Mr Winnick came a low hum of approbation, as of bees stirring in their hives. From the Tory side came little squawks of anger, experimental at first, like the squeaking of new chicks. "Is this discredited government doesn't know from day to day where it is going?" He sat down.

It was as if the sun had burst through. Everyone was shouting. The prime minister blinked, momentarily blinded. He had come to praise Mr Winnick - what could he say now? The man was criticising government policy.

Mr Major gulped. "I accept that there is a downturn in the economy." Labour shouted with delight; Tories winced; a thousand flowers bloomed. The prime minister had still to recover his balance when he was hit by question 2, from Dennis Skinner. The member for Bolsover has completed his class analysis of Arabian society, and rightly concluded that it's all topsy turvy: those at the oil-face are the toffs while it is the Kuwaiti princes, not the paupers, who wear handkerchiefs on their heads, "gallivanting about the gambling dens and casinos." Rather lamely, Mr Major replied that he had thought better of Mr Skinner.

It took time but eventually the rites of spring stirred even Mr Major's blood. Labour's Kevin Barron challenged him to admit that the government had activated its "payroll vote" to kill a private bill, the Southampton Rapid Transport bill.

I think I detected the ghost of a grin as honest John replied: "That was the individual decision of members of this House."

Oh no it wasn't! Mr Major told a whooper. Here comes the sun!

MATTHEW PARRIS

US chiefs head for Gulf

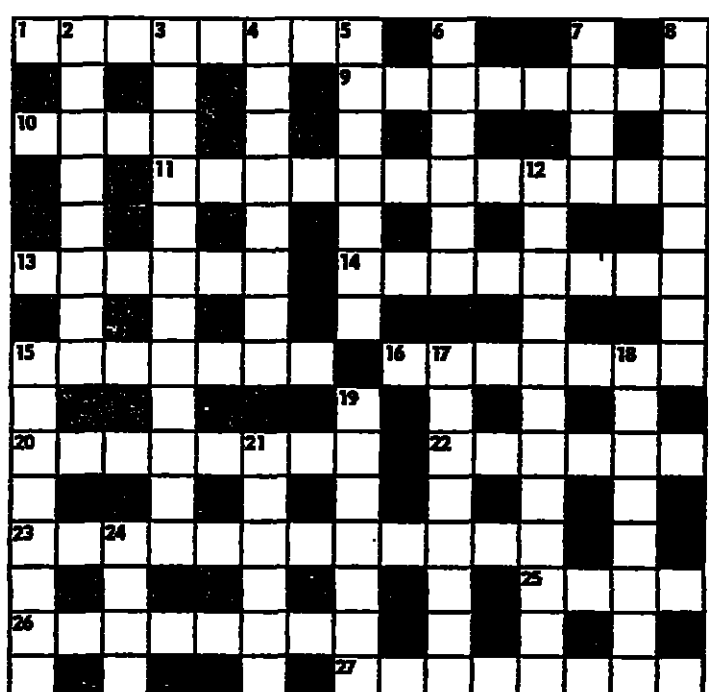
Continued from page 1
concentration of allied firepower has been directed at the three heavy armoured divisions, one of which was said to have lost about 150 of its 300 tanks.

Group Captain Niall Irving said in Riyadh yesterday that a third of Iraq's key bridges had been destroyed and many more had been damaged. The American spokesman Major General Robert John-

ston said yesterday that at least ten more Iraqi planes had fled to safety in Iran, making the total there about 110. But British military sources said it was still possible that Saddam might send his remaining aircraft forward.

The impact of the allied attacks on Iraqi supply lines was highlighted yesterday when Iraq cut off fuel supplies to its people. Baghdad already has no electricity.

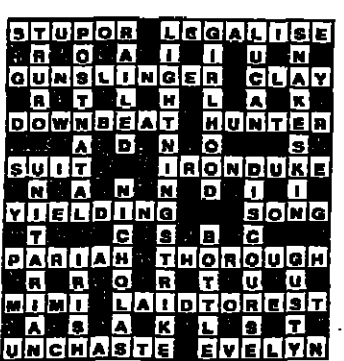
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,522



ACROSS

- 1 Fabric for Mary's family (8).
- 9 Supporting framework for one in full-back position, retreating (8).
- 10 Paid comedian's assistant (4).
- 11 Mid-western city celebrated throughout the US in July (12).
- 13 Exhumed, indeed, might reveal these within (6).
- 14 Increase bid showing confidence in contract (8).
- 15 Proceeds to give thanks to colleague (7).
- 16 Herb's son dividing the conference (7).
- 20 Lead or carbon, actually (8).
- 22 It's unusually valuable (6).
- 23 Belt - Bob could have got a couple more (9,3).
- 25 Calls in card game (opposite of bridge) (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,521



DOWN

- 2 Nymph so visible in the locality (8).
- 3 Chap with diamonds, mass-murderer in sensational novel (6,6).
- 4 Exciting race with swimmer (8).
- 5 Old battles useless for this town in Wales? (7).
- 6 Considered including something insignificant in dictionary (6).
- 7 European hero of Trollope or Twain (4).
- 8 Leaves area for putting on at Rye, perhaps (8).
- 12 Foolishly enter with queen - is she mounted? (12).
- 15 Is it fought out without hard struggle? On the contrary (3-2-3).
- 17 Flying first class, king was held up (6).
- 18 Impudent in style, turning up in warehouse (8).
- 19 Vital characteristic in tonic (7).
- 21 Pacific island's nicer resort (6).
- 24 State what's needed to begin upgrading the Albert Hall (4).

Concise Crossword, page 15

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

HAVELOCK
a. A kiss curl
b. A muzzle-loading shotgun
c. A cap cover
DREIKANTER
a. An all-weather race track
b. A large, triple-decker
c. A wind-blown pebble
STEPHAN
a. A February-blooming shrub
b. An ancient hut
c. A staircase balustrade
DURRA
a. A goat-cart
b. Half-dune at polo
c. Indian millet

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH
For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Derford T 733
M-ways/roads M2-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Coast 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

Eastern and southern parts of England will be cloudy with snow showers and a strong easterly wind. In southeast England and East Anglia the showers may give a few inches of snow. Wales and western and northern England will be mostly dry with some sunshine but there may be some snow in the Midlands later. Eastern Scotland will also be mostly cloudy with snow showers but western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry. Outlook: very cold

MIDDAY: 1-hourly, 4-hourly, 8-hourly, 12-hourly, 16-hourly, 20-hourly, 24-hourly, 28-hourly, 32-hourly, 36-hourly, 40-hourly, 44-hourly, 48-hourly, 52-hourly, 56-hourly, 60-hourly, 64-hourly, 68-hourly, 72-hourly, 76-hourly, 80-hourly, 84-hourly, 88-hourly, 92-hourly, 96-hourly, 100-hourly, 104-hourly, 108-hourly, 112-hourly, 116-hourly, 120-hourly, 124-hourly, 128-hourly, 132-hourly, 136-hourly, 140-hourly, 144-hourly, 148-hourly, 152-hourly, 156-hourly, 160-hourly, 164-hourly, 168-hourly, 172-hourly, 176-hourly, 180-hourly, 184-hourly, 188-hourly, 192-hourly, 196-hourly, 200-hourly, 204-hourly, 208-hourly, 212-hourly, 216-hourly, 220-hourly, 224-hourly, 228-hourly, 232-hourly, 236-hourly, 240-hourly, 244-hourly, 248-hourly, 252-hourly, 256-hourly, 260-hourly, 264-hourly, 268-hourly, 272-hourly, 276-hourly, 280-hourly, 284-hourly, 288-hourly, 292-hourly, 296-hourly, 300-hourly, 304-hourly, 308-hourly, 312-hourly, 316-hourly, 320-hourly, 324-hourly, 328-hourly, 332-hourly, 336-hourly, 340-hourly, 344-hourly, 348-hourly, 352-hourly, 356-hourly, 360-hourly, 364-hourly, 368-hourly, 372-hourly, 376-hourly, 380-hourly, 384-hourly, 388-hourly, 392-hourly, 396-hourly, 400-hourly, 404-hourly, 408-hourly, 412-hourly, 416-hourly, 420-hourly, 424-hourly, 428-hourly, 432-hourly, 436-hourly, 440-hourly, 444-hourly, 448-hourly, 452-hourly, 456-hourly, 460-hourly, 464-hourly, 468-hourly, 472-hourly, 476-hourly, 480-hourly, 484-hourly, 488-hourly, 492-hourly, 496-hourly, 500-hourly, 504-hourly, 508-hourly, 512-hourly, 516-hourly, 520-hourly, 524-hourly, 528-hourly, 532-hourly, 536-hourly, 540-hourly, 544-hourly, 548-hourly, 552-hourly, 556-hourly, 560-hourly, 564-hourly, 568-hourly, 572-hourly, 576-hourly, 580-hourly, 584-hourly, 588-hourly, 592-hourly, 596-hourly, 600-hourly, 604-hourly, 608-hourly, 612-hourly, 616-hourly, 620-hourly, 624-hourly, 628-hourly, 632-hourly, 636-hourly, 640-hourly, 644-hourly, 648-hourly, 652-hourly, 656-hourly, 660-hourly, 664-hourly, 668-hourly, 672-hourly, 676-hourly, 680-hourly, 684-hourly, 688-hourly, 692-hourly, 696-hourly, 700-hourly, 704-hourly, 708-hourly, 712-hourly, 716-hourly, 720-hourly, 724-hourly, 728-hourly, 732-hourly, 736-hourly, 740-hourly, 744-hourly, 748-hourly, 752-hourly, 756-hourly, 760-hourly, 764-hourly, 768-hourly, 772-hourly, 776-hourly, 780-hourly, 784-hourly, 788-hourly, 792-hourly, 796-hourly, 800-hourly, 804-hourly, 808-hourly, 812-hourly, 816-hourly, 820-hourly, 824-hourly, 828-hourly, 832-hourly, 836-hourly, 840-hourly, 844-hourly, 848-hourly, 852-hourly, 856-hourly, 860-hourly, 864-hourly, 868-hourly, 872-hourly, 876-hourly, 880-hourly, 884-hourly, 888-hourly, 892-hourly, 896-hourly, 900-hourly, 904-hourly, 908-hourly, 912-hourly, 916-hourly, 920-hourly, 924-hourly, 928-hourly, 932-hourly, 936-hourly, 940-hourly, 944-hourly, 948-hourly, 952-hourly, 956-hourly, 960-hourly, 964-hourly, 968-hourly, 972-hourly, 976-hourly, 980-hourly, 984-hourly, 988-hourly, 992-hourly, 996-hourly, 1000-hourly, 1004-hourly, 1008-hourly, 1012-hourly, 1016-hourly, 1020-hourly, 1024-hourly, 1028-hourly, 1032-hourly, 1036-hourly, 1040-hourly, 1044-hourly, 1048-hourly, 1052-hourly, 1056-hourly, 1060-hourly, 1064-hourly, 1068-hourly, 1072-hourly, 1076-hourly, 1080-hourly, 1084-hourly, 1088-hourly, 1092-hourly, 1096-hourly, 1100-hourly, 1104-hourly, 1108-hourly, 1112-hourly, 1116-hourly, 1120-hourly, 1124-hourly, 1128-hourly, 1132-hourly, 1136-hourly, 1140-hourly, 1144-hourly, 1148-hourly, 1152-hourly, 1156-hourly, 1160-hourly, 1164-hourly, 1168-hourly, 1172-hourly, 1176-hourly, 1180-hourly, 1184-hourly, 1188-hourly, 1192-hourly, 1196-hourly, 1200-hourly, 1204-hourly, 1208-hourly, 1212-hourly, 1216-hourly, 1220-hourly, 1224-hourly, 1228-hourly, 1232-hourly, 1236-hourly, 1240-hourly, 1244-hourly, 1248-hourly, 1252-hourly, 1256-hourly, 1260-hourly, 1264-hourly, 1268-hourly, 1272-hourly, 1276-hourly, 1280-hourly, 1284-hourly, 1288-hourly, 1292-hourly, 1296-hourly, 1300-hourly, 1304-hourly, 1308-hourly, 1312-hourly, 1316-hourly, 1320-hourly, 1324-hourly, 1328-hourly, 1332-hourly, 1336-hourly, 1340-hourly, 1344-hourly, 1348-hourly, 1352-hourly, 1356-hourly, 1360-hourly, 1364-hourly, 1368-hourly, 1372-hourly, 1376-hourly, 1380-hourly, 1384-hourly, 1388-hourly, 1392-hourly, 1396-hourly, 1400-hourly, 1404-hourly, 1408-hourly, 1412-hourly, 1416-hourly, 1420-hourly, 1424-hourly, 1428-hourly, 1432-hourly, 1436-hourly, 1440-hourly, 1444-hourly, 1448-hourly, 1452-hourly, 1456-hourly, 1460-hourly, 1464-hourly, 1468-hourly, 1472-hourly, 1476-hourly, 1480-hourly, 1484-hourly, 1488-hourly, 1492-hourly, 1496-hourly, 1500-hourly, 1504-hourly, 1508-hourly, 1512-hourly, 1516-hourly, 1520-hourly, 1524-hourly, 1528-hourly, 1532-hourly, 1536-hourly, 1540-hourly, 1544-hourly, 1548-hourly, 1552-hourly, 1556-hourly, 1560-hourly, 1564-hourly, 1568-hourly, 1572-hourly, 1576-hourly, 1580-hourly, 1584-hourly, 1588-hourly, 1592-hourly, 1596-hourly, 1600-hourly, 1604-hourly, 1608-hourly, 1612-hourly, 1616-hourly, 1620-hourly, 1624-hourly, 1628-hourly, 1632-hourly, 1636-hourly, 1640-hourly, 1644-hourly, 1648-hourly, 1652-hourly, 1656-hourly, 1660-hourly, 1664-hourly, 1668-hourly, 1672-hourly, 1676-hourly, 1680-hourly, 1684-hourly, 1688-hourly, 1692-hourly, 1696-hourly, 1700-hourly, 1704-hourly, 1708-hourly, 1712-hourly, 1716-hourly, 1720-hourly, 1724-hourly, 1728-hourly, 1732-hourly, 1736-hourly, 1740-hourly, 1744-hourly, 1748-hourly, 1752-hourly, 1756-hourly, 1760-hourly, 1764-hourly, 1768-hourly, 1772-hourly, 1776-hourly, 1780-hourly, 1784-hourly, 1788-hourly, 1792-hourly, 1796-hourly, 1800-hourly, 1804-hourly, 1808-hourly, 1812-hourly, 1816-hourly, 1820-hourly, 1824-hourly, 1828-hourly, 1832-hourly, 1836-hourly, 1840-hourly, 1844-hourly, 1848-hourly, 1852-hourly, 1856-hourly, 1860-hourly, 1864-hourly, 1868-hourly, 1872-hourly, 1876-hourly, 1880-hourly, 1884-hourly, 1888-hourly, 1892-hourly, 1896-hourly, 1900-hourly, 1904-hourly, 1908-hourly, 1912-hourly, 1916-hourly, 1920-hourly, 1924-hourly, 1928-hourly, 1932-hourly, 1936-hourly, 1940-hourly, 1944-hourly, 1948-hourly, 1952-hourly, 1956-hourly, 1960-hourly, 1964-hourly, 1968-hourly, 1972-hourly, 1976-hourly, 1980-hourly, 1984-hourly, 1988-hourly, 1992-hourly, 1996-hourly, 2000-hourly, 2004-hourly, 2008-hourly, 2012-hourly, 2016-hourly, 2020-hourly, 2024-hourly, 2028-hourly, 2032-hourly, 2036-hourly, 2040-hourly, 2044-hourly, 2048-hourly, 2052-hourly, 2056-hourly, 2060-hourly, 2064-hourly, 2068-hourly, 2072-hourly, 2076-hourly, 2080-hourly, 2084-hourly, 2088-hourly, 2092-hourly, 2096-hourly, 2100-hourly, 2104-hourly, 2108-hourly, 2112-hourly, 2116-hourly, 2120-hourly, 2124-hourly, 2128-hourly, 2132-hourly, 2136-hourly, 2140-hourly, 2144-hourly, 2148-hourly, 2152-hourly, 2156-hourly, 2160-hourly, 2164-hourly, 2168-hourly, 2172-hourly, 2176-hourly, 2180-hourly, 2184-hourly, 2188-hourly, 2192-hourly, 2196-hourly, 2200-hourly, 2204-hourly, 2208-hourly, 2212-hourly, 2216-hourly, 2220-hourly, 2224-hourly, 2228-hourly, 2232-hourly, 2236-hourly, 2240-hourly, 2244-hourly, 2248-hourly, 2252-hourly, 2256-hourly, 2260-hourly, 2264-hourly, 2268-hourly, 2272-hourly, 2276-hourly, 2280-hourly, 2284-hourly, 2288-hourly, 2292-hourly, 2296-hourly, 2300-hourly, 2304-hourly, 2308-hourly, 2312-hourly, 2316-hourly, 2320-hourly, 2324-hourly, 2328-hourly, 2332-hourly, 2336-hourly, 2340-hourly, 2344-hourly, 2348-hourly, 2352-hourly, 2356-hourly, 2360-hourly, 2364-hourly, 2368-hourly, 2372-hourly, 2376-hourly, 2380-hourly, 2384-hourly, 2388-hourly, 2392-hourly, 2396-hourly, 2400-hourly, 2404-hourly, 2408-hourly, 2412-hourly, 2416-hourly, 2420-hourly, 2424-hourly, 2428-hourly, 2432-hourly, 2436-hourly, 2440-hourly, 2444-hourly, 2448-hourly, 2452-hourly, 2456-hourly, 2460-hourly, 2464-hourly, 2468-hourly, 2472-hourly, 2476-hourly, 2480-hourly, 2484-hourly, 2488-hourly, 2492-hourly, 2496-hourly, 2500-hourly, 2504-hourly, 2508-hourly, 2512-hourly, 2516-hourly, 2520-hourly, 2524-hourly, 2528-hourly, 2532-hourly, 2536-hourly, 2540-hourly, 2544-hourly, 2548-hourly, 2552-hourly, 2556-hourly, 2560-hourly, 2564-hourly, 2568-hourly, 2572-hourly, 2576-hourly, 2580-hourly, 2584-hourly, 2588-hourly, 2592-hourly, 2596-hourly, 2600-hourly, 2604-hourly, 2608-hourly, 2612-hourly, 2616-hourly, 2620-hourly, 2624-hourly, 2628-hourly, 2632-hourly, 2636-hourly, 2640-hourly, 2644-hourly, 2648-hourly, 2652-hourly, 2656-hourly, 2660-hourly, 2664-hourly, 2668-hourly, 2672-hourly, 2676-hourly, 2680-hourly, 2684-hourly, 2688-hourly, 2692-hourly, 2696-hourly, 2700-hourly, 2704-hourly, 2708-hourly, 2712-hourly, 2716-hourly, 2720-hourly, 2724-hourly, 2728-hourly, 2732-hourly, 2736-hourly, 2740-hourly, 2744-hourly, 2748-hourly, 2752-hourly, 2756-hourly, 2760-hourly, 2764-hourly, 2768-hourly, 2772-hourly, 2776-hourly, 2780-hourly, 2784-hourly, 2788-hourly, 2792-hourly, 2796-hourly, 2800-hourly, 2804-hourly, 2808-hourly, 2812-hourly, 2816-hourly, 2820-hourly, 2824-hourly, 2828-hourly, 2832-hourly, 2836-hourly, 2840-hourly, 2844-hourly, 2848-hourly, 2852-hourly, 2856-hourly, 2860-hourly, 2864-hourly, 2868-hourly, 2872-hourly, 2876-hourly, 2880-hourly, 2884-hourly, 2888-hourly, 2892-hourly, 2896-hourly, 2900-hourly, 2904-hourly, 2908-hourly, 2912-hourly, 2916-hourly, 2920-hourly, 2924-hourly, 2928-hourly, 2932-hourly, 2936-hourly, 2940-hourly, 2944-hourly, 2948-hourly, 2952-hourly, 2956-hourly, 2960-hourly, 2964-hourly, 2968-hourly, 2972-hourly, 2976-hourly, 2980-hourly, 2984-hourly, 2988-hourly, 2992-hourly, 2996-hourly, 3000-hourly, 3004-hourly, 3008-hourly, 3012-hourly, 3016-hourly, 3020-hourly, 3024-hourly, 3028-hourly, 3032-hourly, 3036-hourly, 3040-hourly, 3044-hourly, 3048-hourly, 3052-hourly, 3056-hourly, 3060-hourly, 3064-hourly, 3068-hourly, 3072-hourly, 3076-hourly, 3080-hourly, 3084-hourly, 3088-hourly, 3092-hourly, 3096-hourly, 3100-hourly, 3104-hourly, 3108-hourly, 3112-hourly, 3116-hourly, 3120-hourly, 3124-hourly, 3128-hourly, 3132-hourly, 3136-hourly, 3140-hourly, 3144-hourly, 3148-hourly, 3152-hourly, 3156-hourly, 3160-hourly, 3164-hourly, 3168-hourly, 3172-hourly, 3176-hourly, 3180-hourly, 3184-hourly, 3188-hourly, 3192-hourly, 3196-hourly, 3200-hourly, 3204-hourly, 3208-hourly, 3212-hourly, 3216-hourly, 3220-hourly, 3224-hourly, 3228-hourly, 3232-hourly, 3236-hourly, 3240-hourly, 3244-hourly, 3248-hourly, 3252-hourly, 3256-hourly, 3260-hourly, 3264-hourly, 3268-hourly, 3272-hourly, 3276-hourly, 3280-hourly, 3284-hourly, 3288-hourly, 3292-hourly, 3296-hourly, 3300-hourly, 3304-hourly, 3308-hourly, 3312-hourly, 3316-hourly, 3320-hourly, 3324-hourly, 3328-hourly, 3332-hourly, 3336-hourly, 3340-hourly, 3344-hourly, 3348-hourly, 3352-hourly, 3356-hourly, 3360-hourly, 3364-hourly, 3368-hourly, 3372-hourly, 3376-hourly, 3380-hourly, 3384-hourly, 3388-hourly, 3392-hourly, 3396-hourly, 3400-hourly, 3404-hour

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6 1991

Major promises sustained fall in base rates

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND MICHAEL CLARK

THE prime minister, under mounting pressure to counter the deepening recession, has responded with a promise of "sustained" reduction of interest rates as inflation declines.

John Major's remarks at Commons question time were read in the money markets as a signal that base rates would be lowered soon. This cut 1/2 of a point off the key three-month lending rate, leaving it at 13 1/2%.

The already weak pound fell in response, ending at DM2.9013. Though over a quarter pence stronger than on Tuesday, it remained at the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism, appearing to rule out imminent monetary easing.

The pound showed little movement overall. Against the dollar, it gained 65 points to close at \$1.9835. On its trade-weighted index it closed 0.1 up at 94.4. The dollar closed at a record low of DM1.4620.

Shares, already rising on the back of a strong showing on Wall Street, moved higher, encouraged by Mr Major's comments, with the FT-SE 100 closing at 2,202, up 29.6. But City economists were

wary. They saw Mr Major's words as out of keeping with the campaign the government has conducted since the new year to talk up the pound by convincing the markets that policy will be eased only when the sterling is strong enough in the ERM parity grid.

The pound fell sharply after the Bundesbank raised key German lending rates by half a point last week, and suffered further in the aftermath of the dollar's dramatic collapse on Monday. Most analysts saw sterling's tumble ruling out a base rate cut until the Budget on March 19.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "The prime minister would do better to say nothing in market terms."

Gwynn Hache, UK economist at James Capel, said the remarks seemed "very odd", as they tried to emphasize that interest rates are coming down, when the best policy to achieve cuts would be to talk tough, as the government had been doing.

Mr Major, reaffirming that his policy was to reduce inflation, told the House that "as inflation comes down there will be the opportunity for sustained interest rate reduction". He refused to be drawn on the timing, but said "soft options tend to lead to hard times".

He was answering calls from Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, for immediate cuts in interest rates, a demand that has been coming increasingly loudly from industry and commerce, and Mr Major's backbenchers.

Mr Major insisted that government policies were reducing inflation. "Nobody wants interest rates unduly high but we need to ensure that we have a low inflation economy and that is the means to ensure we have it."

Stock market investors went on a spending spree as hopes of an early cut in interest rates were revived.

The FT-SE 100 index closed near its best levels of the day and has now risen about 10 per cent from its low point in September. Almost 700 million shares were traded with turnover swollen by two large share placings in Vickers and Refuse Assurance.

London took its lead from strong overnight performances in New York and Tokyo. Market-makers with only small stock positions were forced to mark share prices sharply higher at the outset to deter prospective buyers. This in turn increased the pressure on the numerous bear positions that have been built up in the wake of the fighting in the Middle East and worries about the recession.

News that Wall Street had recovered earlier falls whetted investors' appetites. The latest analysis by Oxford Economic Forecasting, published today, points to retail price inflation dropping sharply this year, especially in April when last year's poll tax effect drops out of the calculation.

It predicts headline inflation dropping to an annual 6.2 per cent in the second quarter, compared with 9.3 per cent in December. By the final quarter, it foresees 4.5 per cent, a percentage point below the Treasury's last official forecast. In 1992, annual inflation is expected to average below 4 per cent.

OEFC predicts that base rates will be lowered only gradually to near 12.5 per cent this summer. It sees little room for manoeuvre in the Budget.

It is far gloomier than the government about the recession, forecasting a decline of 0.7 per cent in the gross domestic product this year after 1 per cent growth in 1990. Next year is expected to produce renewed growth of 2.4 per cent.

Unemployment is seen surging to 2.3 million by the fourth quarter of 1990.



Sell by date: John Duggan, of Cabra, has given Chelsea football club until next season to buy the Stamford Bridge ground or leave the site

Cabra to blow whistle at Chelsea

By PHILIP PANGALOS

CABRA Estates, the property group that owns the grounds of Chelsea and Fulham football clubs, has asked Chelsea to buy the Stamford Bridge ground or vacate the site.

John Duggan, the chairman and chief executive of Cabra, said that if Ken Bates, the chairman of Chelsea, and his club do not buy Stamford Bridge, a process that could take six months, they would have to find a new ground by next season.

Colin Hutchinson, Chelsea's managing director, welcomed the news, saying: "We are encouraged that SB Property [a Cabra subsidiary] have acknowledged the validity of Chelsea's claim to exercise the option to purchase the freehold. The next step will be to determine a realistic price."

Cabra says it will avoid the costly High Court proceedings brought by Chelsea over the option agreement, inherited when Cabra acquired Marler Estates.

Mr Duggan said: "We have never wanted to kick Chelsea out. We just want to get this company out of football as early as possible. We hope to get on with our lives without Mr Bates."

The bitter and protracted dispute over the site is set to go to arbitration. The terms of the option provide for an independent expert to be appointed to value the ground at prices prevailing at the date of the exercise of the option, August 1988. Such a decision would be binding on both parties.

The freehold of the site is valued at £30 million on Cabra's books, while Savills valued it at £40 million in July 1988. Cabra has permission to build 100 houses, 121 apartments and 1,500 sq metres of office space on the 11.7-acre site. Chelsea has permission for a 160-bed hotel, 264 flats, offices, shops and a 40,000 capacity all-seater stadium.

Cabra says it has debts of just over £42 million. Last December, the group unveiled a £5.24 million pre-tax loss for the six months to end-September. Cabra receives 10 per cent of Chelsea's gate receipts, which amounted to about £400,000 last year.

EC central bank plans 'could erode the City'

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LORD Alexander of Weald, the National Westminster Bank chairman, is concerned that the draft statutes for the European central bank could lead to erosion of the City as a financial centre.

The statutes, agreed by central bank governors in November, form a key document before the inter-governmental conference on European economic and monetary union.

Scrutiny of the statutes by David Lomax, NatWest's group economic adviser, reveals that important questions have been left unaddressed, or suggest that London would lose business to other centres in the European Community and offshore.

Mr Lomax found that the article that deals with the operational behaviour of the European central bank fails to spell out whether the institution would try to spread its activities across the EC.

Given that the seat of a country's central bank is usually a major national financial marketplace, it is feared that any attempt to try to concentrate the European central bank's activities in one City, say Frankfurt, would draw large amounts of business away from other centres.



Alexander concerned

TML loses key battle on tunnel

By MARTIN WALLER

TRANSMANCHE-LINK, the consortium building the Channel tunnel, has lost a crucial battle in its long-running quarrel with Eurotunnel over cost and time overruns, putting at risk claims totalling £700 million.

TML had claimed the installation of the rail signalling network would be delayed through no fault of its own and demanded an extension on its contract. The claim is part of a web of disputes under which TML is asking for £700 million on the £7.6 billion project or an extra year.

According to a report in *Construction Weekly* published today, the independent arbitration panel set up by both parties to rule on disputes has found against the consortium and refused any extension beyond the completion date of June 15, 1993.

It has decided that the contractors have no right to vary the original contract signed by both parties. There is a further arbitration procedure, but the first round has been won by Eurotunnel.

Eurotunnel shares rose on the third day running, closing up 24p at 499p. They opened on Friday at 455p.

THE POUND

US dollar	1.9835 (+0.0065)
German mark	2.8995 (+0.0022)
Exchange index	94.4 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1724.8 (+24.2)
FT-SE 100	2202.0 (+29.6)
New York Dow Jones	2778.71 (+6.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	23821.57 (+534.21)
Closing Prices Page

RISES

De La Rue	340p (+13p)
Grand Union	87p (+5p)
Gumtree	774p (+15p)
Barclays	378p (+15p)
Nat West	252p (+15p)
Standard	240p (+15p)
Union Discount	589p (+18p)
Softel	712p (+13p)
Carlton Comm	385p (+14p)
Comen Union	491p (+20p)
GPE	185p (+8p)
Charter Cons	429p (+12p)
Tarmac	301p (+15p)
Tilbury Group	320p (+11p)
Royal	384p (+12p)
Sun Alliance	340p (+4p)
BM Group	257p (+11p)
Brewster	472p (+10p)

FALLS

Refuge	600p (-24p)
Taylor Woodrow	240p (-5p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	14%
3-month Interbank 13 1/2% to 13 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills 13 1/2% to 13 3/4%	
US Prime Rate 8%	
Federal Funds 5 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bill 5.97-5.98%	
30-year bonds 10.61-10.62%	

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.9835
£/DM	2.8995
£/Sfr	2.4774
£/FF	6.5595
£/Yen	163.26
£/Index	94.4
ECU	1.9368
SDR	1.7310
ECU	1.4763
SDR	1.3868

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$387.15 PM \$386.50
Close	\$386.25-386.75 (\$184.50-185.10)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar)	\$19.65 bbl (\$19.80)
Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	21.40	21.40
Austria Sch	21.40	21.40
Belgium Fr	62.50	62.50
Canada \$	2.15	2.15
Denmark Kr	11.87	11.87
Finland Mk	7.42	7.42
France Fr	10.27	10.27
Germany DM	3.00	3.00
Greece Dr	330	330
Hong Kong \$	15.95	15.95
India Rupee	1.14	1.14
Italy Lire	2280	2280
Japan Yen	212	212
Netherlands Gld	3.41	3.41
Norway Kr	11.85	11.85
Portugal Esc	200	200
South Africa Rd	6.65	6.65
Spain Ptas	166.50	166.50
Sweden Kr	11.35	11.35
Switzerland Sfr	2.05	2.05
Turkey Lira	6000	6000
USA \$	2.05	2.05
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	35.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.8 (December)

Nadir creditors drop lawsuit

By ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, has escaped personal bankruptcy after a £50 million agreement with eight creditors including four brokers and the Inland Revenue.

SJ Berwin, Mr Nadir's solicitor, issued a brief statement saying the Polly Peck chief had agreed with his principal creditors to discharge his liabilities in full and the bankruptcy petition has consequently been dropped.

The Turkish Cypriot businessman is believed to have given his creditors a charge over several of his Turkish and Cypriot assets rather than a cash settlement.

BZW and Lehman Brothers, the brokers, began an action three months ago for non-payment of trading debts in Polly Peck shares worth £21.1 million. They were later joined by Merrill Lynch and Carr Kistiak & Aitken that are owed about £25 million. The Revenue conducted an enquiry into Mr Nadir's finances

last year which his lawyers said was "resolved to the satisfaction of both parties".

Mr Nadir is believed to have settled this matter by paying only a small part of the Revenue's original claim. Mr Nadir's personal bankruptcy matter was due to be heard again at the end of this month after the court considered whether a number of extra unnamed claimants should be joined to the petition. It appears that "three or four" of these creditors had valid claims and have been included in the settlement.

The withdrawal of the petition removes one of Mr Nadir's problems. He also faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting worth £25 million and is involved in restructuring Polly Peck, which went into administration four months ago. Administrators to the fresh fruit, hotels and electronics business will try on Friday to lift an injunction preventing access to the firm's accounts in northern Cyprus.

White House seeks to replace agency

Bush plans banking reform

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

NICHOLAS Brady, the American treasury secretary, was scheduled to unveil a proposal yesterday dividing bank regulation between the Federal Reserve and the comptroller of the currency, subject to congressional approval.

The changes, part of the Bush administration's reform of the financial services industry, would create an agency inside the Treasury in place of the independent Federal Reserve Insurance Corp. William Seidman, chairman of the FDIC, has argued frequently with the administration on banking issues.

Under the plan, the Fed would regulate all 8,500 state chartered banks and their

holding companies, while national banks and savings and loans, or thrifts, and their holding companies would fall under the supervision of the new Federal Banking Agency.

The FDIC, with authority over America's 12,000 banks, would continue to insure bank deposits of up to \$100,000 and take charge of failed banks. The Treasury contends it needs a larger role in banking issues at a crucial time for the economy, although its proposals are likely to arouse concern in Congress about the independence of bank regulators. The new banking agency would work through the Treasury.

The fate of the proposals

depends on congressional reaction since Mr Seidman, who has been in charge of the bailout of the savings and loan industry, is popular on Capitol Hill. The White House tried last year to persuade him to retire early.

Other measures expected in the overhaul were proposals to ease barriers to inter-state banking, tighten restrictions on the federal deposit insurance of bank and thrift accounts, allow investment banks and commercial banks to merge and industrial enterprises to own banks. The Office of Thrift Supervision, would be dissolved.

Bush under fire, page 23

IEP sells 20% stake in Vickers

IEP Securities, part of Brierley Investments, has sold its 20 per cent holding in Vickers, the group that makes Rolls-Royce cars and Challenger tanks, for £101 million.

The 53 million shares were placed with institutions by Warburg Securities at 191p a share. Warburg is believed to have paid IEP 189p a share for the holding.

Comment, page 23

Coombs receiver

Administrative receivers have been appointed to TC Coombs, the broker suspended from dealing by the International Stock Exchange on Friday. Ernst & Young, the accountant, was appointed receiver and said it would take several days to establish the company's liabilities and decide the future conduct of the business.

Securicor slide

Shares in Securicor Group and its sister company, Security Services, fell despite final results showing taxable profits up 36 per cent and 28 per cent respectively. Securicor's A shares closed down 20p at 455p while Security Services, 50.75 per cent owned by Securicor, fell 13p to 350p. During the year to the end of September, Securicor earned profits of £51.9 million before tax, compared with £38.24 million in the previous 12 months. Both have raised total dividends by 40 per cent.

Tempos, page 23

Dividend held

An £800,000 loss at its personnel division and a £700,000 loss from discontinued activities helped trim pre-tax profits at Securicor Group, the security and transport group, by £2.3 million in the year to November 4. But a 4.8p final payment maintains the total at 8p.

Tempos, page 23

ROBERT FRASER CURRENCY LOANS
MANAGED CURRENCY MORTGAGES?
FOR THOSE UNFORESEEN CHANGES
IN FORTUNE.

At Robert Fraser Currency Loans, keeping up with the pace of change is key to our continued success.

Since the UK's entry into the ERM, we have strengthened our range of products, producing even more flexible ways for an increasing number of borrowers to access the potential gains to be had upon the world's foreign exchange markets.

However, as even the most powerfully placed must learn, the world is full of surprises and a currency loan needs expert management to ensure that savings made from lower interest rates are not swallowed up by an unwelcome increase in the size of your mortgage.

That is why we appointed the UK's leading currency managers. The ECU Group Ltd, who over the last two difficult years have reduced our customers' mortgage debt by some 14% whilst maintaining their interest payments on average below 9%.

So, if you wish to learn more about the ever changing world of currency loans, as well as the pro's and con's of each of our significantly differing products, call 071-839 5799.

And talk to the company that's remained calmly at No. 1 in currency loans for years.



Robert Fraser Currency Loans Ltd

The best, kept secret.

30 St. James Street, London SW1A 1HB

A Licensed Credit Broker.

"The sterling equivalent of your liability under a foreign currency mortgage may be increased by exchange rate movements and your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage or other loans secured on it. Past performance is no guarantee of future success. Credit broker fees may be charged and insurance may also be required."

Boycott of GA posed £25m threat

A BOYCOTT by insurance brokers in protest at a free motor insurance scheme that excluded them could cost General Accident about £25 million in lost premiums, the Restrictive Practices Court has ruled.

Mr Justice Warner, giving reasons for granting an interim order stopping the boycott, said the move by the Institute of Independent Insurance Brokers would cause "material detriment" to General Accident.

On December 21 last year, the judge granted Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, a temporary order under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 pending a full hearing of the issue.

In a written judgment yesterday the judge said that from June 5 to October 1 last year General Accident allowed Ford Motor Company to offer free insurance to buyers of some of its new cars. Brokers believe they have lost business by this direct approach.

The institute, retaliated by deciding not to place any business with General Accident from January 1 this year for an initial period of six months.

The judge dismissed as "pure speculation" the institute's contention that General Accident was trying to squeeze out the competition of insurance brokers.

Coke to spend \$450m in east Germany

FROM ANATOLE KALETSKY IN DAVOS

COCA-COLA said that it will invest \$450 million in eastern Germany, including the purchase of former east German soft drink operations worth about \$100 million from the Treuhandschaft, the German government's privatisation trust fund.

The deal will represent one of the biggest single investment programmes undertaken by the American company.

The sale of the soft drink operations will also be the largest transaction agreed so far by the Treuhandschaft with a non-German investor.

Donald Keough, the president of Coca-Cola, said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that the purchase is a sign of the growing confidence in eastern Germany among multinational companies.

He added the deal also shows the urgency and competence with which the Treuhandschaft is now conducting its operations, after a slow start. Heinz Wietorek, the president of Coca-Cola Germany, said although his company is acquiring

outdated equipment, earlier fears about the quality of workers and managers trained in the communist system are proving unfounded.

"When their old command system collapsed, the soft drink people here thought they were completely lost. But when we came in they were able to transfer their sense of affiliation to the Coca-Cola family. They are enthusiastic and open-minded and we are finding they are good sales people as well," he added. He added that the salaries paid in Coca-Cola's eastern operations would inevitably have to rise towards western German levels. This would result not only from union pressures but also the company's management philosophy.

"How can we say they are part of the same family if we pay them vastly different wages?" he said.

Mr Keough said that there are still a few minor issues to be settled before the East German purchase is completed and a precise price agreed.

But the agreement in principle announced yesterday is so detailed that it is "very close to a done deal". Coca-Cola is already buying equipment to install its new facilities, he added.

Coca-Cola started operating in eastern Germany last February using supplies from its western plants. Sales had grown by the end of the year from nothing to an annual per capita rate of 30 drinks.

Mr Keough predicted that within a few years Eastern Germany's consumers would be drinking as much Coca-Cola as the West Germans.



Sir David: joining the board of the smallest ITV contractor

Steel joins Border TV

MELVYN Bragg, chairman of Border Television, smallest of the ITV contractors fighting to keep their franchises, has brought Sir David Steel, the former Liberal party leader, on to the board. Sir David represents a Scottish border constituency.

In the six months to end October, Border's revenue fell 7.5 per cent to £6.04 million, but the company increased pre-tax profits by 8.7 per cent.

Tempos, page 23

Jury takes Blue Arrow trial oath

THE task of finding a jury for the Blue Arrow fraud trial was completed at the Old Bailey yesterday. After two days of intense questioning, 11 men and one woman took their oaths for the trial, arising out of the £837 million Blue Arrow rights issue in 1987.

On Monday, after 12 were shortlisted from 160 potential jurors, the trial judge, Mr Justice McKinnon, gave them a 24-hour "cooling off" period to make sure trying the case would not cause them exceptional personal or business problems. Despite a warning from the judge that the case could run until at least September, only one juror dropped out after bringing in a letter from her employer.

The charge, denied by the defendants at an earlier hearing, began by alleging that on or between September 27 and December 20 1987, they conspired with others to "defraud such persons who had or might have had an interest in acquiring, disposing of, subscribing for, sub-underwriting or otherwise dealing in shares of Blue Arrow Plc by dishonestly misleading the market".

The case was adjourned until Monday.

The corporate defendants are County NatWest, its parent NatWest Investment Bank, and UBS Phillips and Drew Securities.

The other defendants are Jonathan Cohen, deputy chief executive of NatWest Investment Bank, and chief executive of County NatWest until February 1988; Stephen Clark, group finance director of County NatWest; David Redford, former executive director and managing director of corporate finance at County NatWest; Nicholas Wells, former County NatWest executive director and former member of the corporate advisory department; Alan Keat, a partner in the solicitors Travers Smith Braithwaite; Martin Gibbs, former director of UBS Phillips and Drew; and Christopher Stainforth, former director of UBS Phillips and Drew corporate finance.

Judgment on an application by UBS Phillips & Drew Securities seeking an order to "ring fence" a separate civil action related to Blue Arrow is not expected to be delivered until the end of the month.

The civil action is being brought by General Electric Company's pension funds, which claim the contracts under which they bought their Blue Arrow shares were procured by fraud.

Beazer takes Korean partner in venture

BEAZER, the heavily indebted construction and building materials group, has agreed a joint venture with Sangyong Cement Industrial of South Korea for its remaining Californian cement interests, in a bid to reduce its debts further and exposure to the cement industries.

Beazer, which on Monday agreed to sell its Harkeyville, South Carolina, cement facility to Blue Circle for \$60.7 million, has signed a contract involving a 50-50 joint venture with the Koreans to own and operate all of the assets of its Riverside Cement Company. The contract is conditional on the funding and South Korean government approval. The transaction is valued at about \$170 million and will reduce Beazer's borrowings by about \$135 million. Beazer said it will gain about \$15 million as a result of the transaction.

Fyffes lifts payout 10%

FYFFES, the fruit distribution group, reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £12.5 million (£22.9 million) for the year to end-October. The total dividend rose 10 per cent to 6.52p to 6.73p. Sales rose from £141.2 million to £155.7 million. Disposals and closures, notably the sale of the GM Gerrards shops, cost the company £13.3 million.

Turnover fell from £13.6 million to £12.26 million. Brian Henderson, the chairman, said that although pre-tax profits had been broadly maintained, margins were reduced. He said the outlook for the construction industry was "extremely difficult" in the current year.

BCSR losses grow in half

BRISTOL Channel Ship Repairs incurred losses of £231,000 before tax in the six months to October 12, compared with an interim deficit of £15,700 in the previous year, on turnover down from £245,000 to £248,000. Losses per share were 0.29p against 0.02p. There is again no dividend. The company said it hoped to complete the disposal of a leasehold property in Cardiff during the current year.

Ewart payout despite fall

EWART, the Belfast property developer, is paying an interim dividend of 0.5p a share despite pre-tax profits down to £305,000 from £345,000 for the six months to October. Earnings were 0.92p a share (1.01p). No provision was made for a £2.2 million payment to House of Fraser to settle a claim arising from termination of an agreement to acquire Switzer & Co. There was no dividend last time.

Geevor colliery closes

GEEVOR, the mining group, has ceased production at the Mainband Colliery in Cumbria, making 30 people redundant, following a decision by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to call in its loans. Mainband was expected to produce about 40,000 tonnes of coal this year.

Mark Wellesley-Wood, the chairman, also said that the company has been given four weeks to secure alternative financing for the £2.76 million acquisition of the Pinnacle Creek operations in West Virginia. The acquisition was deferred from January 31 after CIBC claimed Geevor was in default of £2 million of bank loans. CIBC has been paid in full but Geevor has been drained of cash for day-to-day activities and may be forced to withdraw from the deal.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (pts)	Yearly change (pts)
The World	590.4	0.8	2.9	1.0	3.8
(free)	112.8	0.8	2.8	1.0	3.8
EAPE	1012.5	1.6	3.2	1.4	2.6
(free)	104.0	1.6	3.1	1.3	2.4
Europe	613.1	0.8	3.0	0.8	3.2
(free)	132.4	0.8	2.7	0.8	2.7
Nth America	431.3	-0.4	2.4	0.0	5.3
Nordic	1180.3	0.0	6.7	0.0	7.0
(free)	188.3	-0.1	5.8	0.0	8.5
Pacific	2230.1	2.2	3.4	1.8	2.2
Far East	3229.6	2.2	3.3	1.8	1.9
Australia	239.6	1.6	4.4	2.7	6.7
Austria	1272.8	1.2	-2.7	1.3	-2.1
Belgium	713.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.5
Canada	422.2	0.2	-0.6	0.5	2.2
Denmark	1105.8	0.6	2.5	0.5	2.8
Finland	62.5	0.7	-2.9	0.8	-2.0
(free)	87.7	0.4	2.0	0.4	3.0
France	585.7	1.1	3.8	1.1	4.0
Germany	702.5	0.2	2.8	-0.1	3.0
Hong Kong	2071.4	2.4	7.7	2.8	10.7
Italy	251.5	2.3	-1.5	2.4	-1.3
Japan	3383.3	2.3	3.2	1.8	1.6
Netherlands	724.6	0.5	-1.9	0.5	-1.5
New Zealand	55.5	2.6	7.8	2.9	8.5
Norway	1056.5	0.1	-5.2	0.1	-5.2
(free)	188.7	0.2	-3.9	0.3	-4.0
Singapore	1511.1	1.2	4.2	1.7	5.6
Spain	176.1	0.6	7.3	0.5	6.2
Sweden	1308.5	-0.5	14.8	-0.4	15.0
(free)	119.7	-0.8	14.3	-0.7	14.8
Switzerland	749.7	0.7	6.3	0.7	6.4
(free)	113.3	0.6	5.4	0.5	6.0
UK	558.4	1.1	3.0	1.1	3.0
USA	391.5	-0.4	2.6	-0.1	5.5

(pts) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

Interbrand complains

THE chairman of Interbrand, the brand valuation specialist, has complained to the Institute of Chartered Accountants that big accountancy firms are exploiting their position as auditors unfairly to win work for their management consultancy businesses. John Mur-

Comment, page 23

US firms vie for Euroquote

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EUROQUOTE, the new European stock market information network, will be run by an American company. Citicorp and General Electric of the US are competing for the system, which should be running by the end of the year. Euroquote will be a screen information service, carrying share prices and company news from all the European

Community's stock markets. The company is owned by the EC's exchanges, which have already invested £2.7 million (£1.9 million). The Federation of EC Stock Exchanges, which has organised the system, plans to convert Euroquote eventually into a full trading system. Initially it will concentrate on the 300 most traded European stocks. General Electric and Citicorp, which is bidding with Telerate, the financial information service, are both proposing to use the same equipment for the system. It will be based on Stratus computers, currently used by the International Stock Exchange in London. The information will be sent to stockbrokers through the Eutelsat satellite. The winner will be announced next month. General Electric would base the system in Amsterdam, while Citicorp would base it in London.

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 94.4 (day's range 94.5-94.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate	Spot	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.9785-1.9790	1.9785-1.9790	1.9785-1.9790	1.9785-1.9790	1.9785-1.9790
London	2.2925-2.2930	2.2925-2.2930	2.2925-2.2930	2.2925-2.2930	2.2925-2.2930
Amsterdam	3.2890-3.2895	3.2890-3.2895	3.2890-3.2895	3.2890-3.2895	3.2890-3.2895
Frankfurt	2.83-2.84	2.83-2.84	2.83-2.84	2.83-2.84	2.83-2.84
Paris	11.1450-11.1455	11.1450-11.1455	11.1450-11.1455	11.1450-11.1455	11.1450-11.1455
Dublin	1.0817-1.0822	1.0817-1.0822	1.0817-1.0822	1.0817-1.0822	1.0817-1.0822
Brussels	2.8775-2.8780	2.8775-2.8780	2.8775-2.8780	2.8775-2.8780	2.8775-2.8780
Lisbon	181.50-181.55	181.50-181.55	181.50-181.55	181.50-181.55	181.50-181.55
Madrid	217.45-217.50	217.45-217.50	217.45-217.50	217.45-217.50	217.45-217.50
Milan	11.3225-11.3230	11.3225-11.3230	11.3225-11.3230	11.3225-11.3230	11.3225-11.3230
Oslo	8.8675-8.8680	8.8675-8.8680	8.8675-8.8680	8.8675-8.8680	8.8675-8.8680
Stockholm	10.9450-10.9455	10.9450-10.9455	10.9450-10.9455	10.9450-10.9455	10.9450-10.9455
Tokyo	257.10-257.15	257.10-257.15	257.10-257.15	257.10-257.15	257.10-257.15
Yen	12.10-12.11	12.10-12.11	12.10-12.11	12.10-12.11	12.10-12.11
Zurich	2.4745-2.4750	2.4745-2.4750	2.4745-2.4750	2.4745-2.4750	2.4745-2.4750

Source: Reuters

MONEY RATES (%)

Rate	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14	14	14	14	14
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 14	14	14	14	14
Treasury Bills (Day-Buy): 2 mth 13 1/2; 3 mth 12 1/2; 6 mth 12 1/2; 12 mth 12 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Prime Bank Bills (Day-Buy): 1 mth 13 1/2; 3 mth 12 1/2; 6 mth 12 1/2; 12 mth 12 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Local Authority Debts: 12 mth 13 1/2; 18 mth 13 1/2; 24 mth 13 1/2; 36 mth 13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Building Society CDs: 12 mth 13 1/2; 18 mth 13 1/2; 24 mth 13 1/2; 36 mth 13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
European Money Deposits (%)				
Germany: 1 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2; 6 mth 6 1/2; 12 mth 6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
France: 1 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2; 6 mth 6 1/2; 12 mth 6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Italy: 1 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2; 6 mth 6 1/2; 12 mth 6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Spain: 1 mth 6 1/2; 3 mth 6 1/2; 6 mth 6 1/2; 12 mth 6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Yen: 1 mth 7 1/2; 3 mth 7 1/2; 6 mth 7 1/2; 12 mth 7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2

Source: Reuters

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Rate	Gold	Silver	Palladium
London: Gold 388.50-389.00; Silver 5.85-5.86; Palladium 587.00-587.50	388.50-389.00	5.85-5.86	587.00-587.50
New York: Gold 388.50-389.00; Silver 5.85-5.86; Palladium 587.00-587.50	388.50-389.00	5.85-5.86	587.00-587.50

Source: Reuters

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Trust	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
ABN	100.0	0.0	0.0
ABC	100.0	0.0	0.0
DEF	100.0	0.0	0.0
GHI	100.0	0.0	0.0
JKL	100.0	0.0	0.0
MNO	100.0	0.0	0.0
PQR	100.0	0.0	0.0
STU	100.0	0.0	0.0
VWX	100.0	0.0	0.0
YZA	100.0	0.0	0.0

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)
Wheat	100.0	0.0	0.0
Corn	100.0	0.0	0.0
Soybeans	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cotton	100.0	0.0	0.0
Oil	100.0	0.0	0.0
Gold	100.0	0.0	0.0
Silver	100.0	0.0	0.0
Palladium	100.0	0.0	0.0
Platinum	100.0	0.0	0.0

STOCK MARKET

Base rate hopes buoy utilities

UTILITY shares extended their record-breaking run, buoyed by growing hopes of a cut in bank base rates.

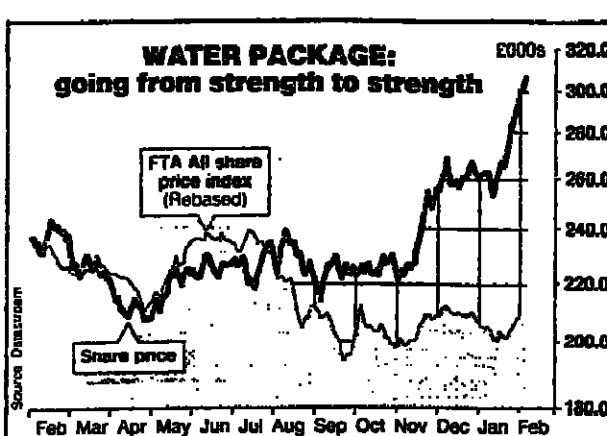
Dealers say both water and electricity companies have been outperforming since the outbreak of fighting in the Middle East.

Fund managers believe the utilities a safe haven in times of trouble as they are resistant to recession and unperturbed by international influences. But their attractive ratings are also likely to find support once interest rates start to fall.

The equity market has risen 10 per cent since its low in September, and fund managers have been under pressure to invest some of their massive funds. Many have concentrated on the utilities, creating a large number of short positions around the marketplace.

Many electricity and water companies hit new highs yesterday in New. Anglia rose 11p to 310p, North West 3p to 306p, Southern 4p to 252p, South West 3p to 222p, Thames 9p to 307p, Welsh 3p to 324p, Wessex 9p to 335p, Northern 1p to 303p, Severn Trent 2p to 280p. Only Yorkshire failed to make headway, sliding 1p to 308p. The water package leapt £32 to £1,040.

Among electricity shares, East Midlands rose 4p to 174p, London 2p to 173p, Manweb



5p to 197p, Midland 7p to 171p, Northern 6p to 178p, NORWEB 1p to 175p, SEABOARD 5p to 166p, and Yorkshire 3p to 183p. South Wales on 187p, Southern on 174p and Eastern on 164p were all unchanged, while South West slipped 1p to 174p. The electricity package rose £30 to £1,750.

The rest of the equity market took its lead from positive overnight performances in New York and Tokyo. Share prices were marked sharply higher early on, bringing the bears under renewed pressure.

Sentiment was also encouraged by hopes of a cut in interest rates and the covering of positions on the futures market, where the March FTSE 100 series traded at a 40-

196p as Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, finally disposed of his 20 per cent stake in the company. In a single bought deal, Warburg Securities picked up the 5.3 million shares at 189p a share before selling them on to various institutions at 191p. Sir Ron is reputed to have paid prices up from 185p to 205p a share, resulting in a trading loss.

Meanwhile, Athens, the French insurance group, has sold its 10 per cent stake in Refugio Assurance. The New York securities house Goldman Sachs placed the 5 million shares on the marketplace at 601p. The Refugio share price responded to the news with a fall of 24p to 606p as bid hopes evaporated.

Securix, the security services and cellular phone group, fell 12p to 698p following a full-year report which fell short of expectations. Pretax profits rose by £13.8 million to £51.9 million helped by a doubled contribution from its stake in Cellnet. But the group's traditional operations suffered. Its 51 per cent owned subsidiary Securix Services raised pretax profits from £28.2 million to £36 million.

The Rascal twins came under early selling pressure with Telecom down 4p to 280p and Electronics a similar amount lower at 175p in the

wake of the figures from Securix. The average cost per year of a cellular telephone is now estimated at £200. But because of the recession, there is evidence that large numbers of telephones are being returned. British Telecom shrugged aside the worries with a rise of 3 1/2p to 294p.

Securix, the security, industrial cleaning and services group, rose 9p to 79p despite a drop in full-year pretax profits from £6.2 million to £3.8 million.

Companies with a strong presence in America sported double figure gains on the back of the previous night's rise on Wall Street. Glaxo rose 12p to 908p, BAT Industries 10p to 630p and Reuters 27p to 800p.

Clearing banks took their cue from the performance of American banks, which enjoyed gains of 10 per cent. Despite the expected sharp drop in profits from the big four as they continue to make provision for bad debts, they still command attractive ratings. Prices closed below their best although Barclays Bank was 15p better at 379p, Lloyds Bank 4p at 316p, Midland Bank 6p to 176p and National Westminster Bank 13p to 293p. Standard Chartered, the international banking group, also rose 16p to 239p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Blue chips recoup early loss

New York. BLUE chips recouped losses and started to rise in late morning trading, lifted by futures-related buying and strength in some key sectors. The broader market continued to rise.

Joseph Di Chiacchio, manager of institutional trading at Sanford C Bernstein, said: "Momentum continues to lift this market. Selective drug stocks are doing well, some technology stocks are doing better, and financials continue to be good performers." The Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.16 points at 2,781.44. Frankfurt - Shares finished mixed after opening sharply higher, as a lack of follow-up orders and profit-taking wiped out most of the early gains. The Dax index recorded its fifth straight gain, however, rising 3.82 points to 1,438.85 to its highest close since December 19. The index also reached an intraday high for the year of 1,454.68. Traders said the market was upset by Norbert Blum, the German labour minister, who said the eastern German labour market faced collapse.

Sydney - The All-Ordinaries index surged 35.1 points to 1,354.4, its highest close for two months. The rise was prompted by a wave of optimism fuelled by bullish performances on overseas markets. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 4
midday	close	midday	close	midday	close
Abnott Lab	44 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2	45 1/2
Acme Lab	45 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2
Admco	46 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
Admco	47 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Admco	48 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
Admco	49 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Admco	50 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Admco	51 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2
Admco	52 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2
Admco	53 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2	54 1/2
Admco	54 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2	55 1/2
Admco	55 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2
Admco	56 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
Admco	57 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2
Admco	58 1/2	59 1/2	59 1/2	59 1/2	59 1/2
Admco	59 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2
Admco	60 1/2	61 1/2	61 1/2	61 1/2	61 1/2
Admco	61 1/2	62 1/2	62 1/2	62 1/2	62 1/2
Admco	62 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2	63 1/2
Admco	63 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2	64 1/2
Admco	64 1/2	65 1/2	65 1/2	65 1/2	65 1/2
Admco	65 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2
Admco	66 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2	67 1/2
Admco	67 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2	68 1/2
Admco	68 1/2	69 1/2	69 1/2	69 1/2	69 1/2
Admco	69 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2	70 1/2
Admco	70 1/2	71 1/2	71 1/2	71 1/2	71 1/2
Admco	71 1/2	72 1/2	72 1/2	72 1/2	72 1/2
Admco	72 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2
Admco	73 1/2	74 1/2	74 1/2	74 1/2	74 1/2
Admco	74 1/2	75 1/2	75 1/2	75 1/2	75 1/2
Admco	75 1/2	76 1/2	76 1/2	76 1/2	76 1/2
Admco	76 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2
Admco	77 1/2	78 1/2	78 1/2	78 1/2	78 1/2
Admco	78 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2	79 1/2
Admco	79 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2
Admco	80 1/2	81 1/2	81 1/2	81 1/2	81 1/2
Admco	81 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2
Admco	82 1/2	83 1/2	83 1/2	83 1/2	83 1/2
Admco	83 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
Admco	84 1/2	85 1/2	85 1/2	85 1/2	85 1/2
Admco	85 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2	86 1/2
Admco	86 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2
Admco	87 1/2	88 1/2	88 1/2	88 1/2	88 1/2
Admco	88 1/2	89 1/2	89 1/2	89 1/2	89 1/2
Admco	89 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2	90 1/2
Admco	90 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
Admco	91 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2
Admco	92 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2
Admco	93 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2
Admco	94 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2
Admco	95 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Admco	96 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2
Admco	97 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2
Admco	98 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2	99 1/2
Admco	99 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2	100 1/2

Nikkei surges 534 points

Tokyo. SHARES closed higher in heavy trading as investors turned bullish over Monday's advance on Wall Street, a stronger yen, and higher bond prices. The market shrugged off concerns about the Gulf war, brokers said.

The Nikkei index closed up 534.21 points, or 2.29 per cent, to 23,821.57 as the volume of shares traded reached 520 million. The market opened to news that the Dow Jones industrial average

had surged 1.5 per cent overnight in New York. Index-buying drove the Nikkei up 272 points in the first 15 minutes.

The Nikkei fluctuated around that level for the rest of the morning until further index-linked buying at midday pushed it 470 points ahead. Profit-taking then trimmed gains in mid-afternoon, until a fresh round of buying in the last half an hour of trading sent prices back up. Traders were uncertain as to

why the markets in New York and Tokyo had experienced heavy gains.

Hong Kong - Monday's strong gains on Wall Street prompted widespread buying, which pushed the market up nearly 3 per cent in heavy trading. The Hang Seng index, which climbed 26.94 points on Monday, jumped another 94.98 points, or 2.92 per cent, to close at 3,345.41.

Singapore - The Straits Times industrial index rose 13.34 to 1,286.99. (Reuters)

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd	Unit	Offer	Change	Ytd
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16	ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST	1.15	+0.01	1.16				

071-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481

Executive Secretary/PA

Not so much a job. More a way of life.

M4 - Berkshire

A way of life that revolves around the extremely busy Vice President and Financial Director of this major American company's European operation soon to relocate to Bracknell.

The role requires complete dedication, a total commitment to organising the hectic lives of these two key people. In short, it is no 9 to 5 job: when you are needed you must be available. You will, after all, be arranging meetings at almost every location in the world in almost every time zone.

Mature, unfappable, extremely patient and intelligent, you will also have the finely tuned interpersonal and communication skills necessary to deal with the company's many important world wide contacts.

But ultimately the emphasis lies very much on organisation. You will be responsible for ensuring that these executives are functioning at the height of their powers and, consequently, a full understanding of the logistics of an itinerary is fundamental. The need for considerable confidentiality and diplomacy is of paramount importance. Excellent typing, presentation and preparation skills (Apple Mac with Word and Powerpoint) are prerequisites.

In return, you can expect a package that reflects not only the unique nature of the position, but also your unique attributes.

In the first instance write with full career and salary details to Michael Swaine, Otteridge & Company, Griffin House, 161 Hammersmith Road, London W6 8BS.

OTTERIDGE & COMPANY

TELEPHONIST
EXCELLENT SALARY
WEST END

We are a leading firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants based in the West End.

We require a professional and well presented Telephonist to work in a small team of 3. You will also be required to provide cover for the Receptionist as and when required.

You will have first class communication skills, coupled with enthusiasm and a commitment to your work. Experience of the Monarch system would be an advantage.

We offer an excellent salary, a comprehensive benefits package and a warm, friendly environment. Apply in confidence enclosing a CV to:

Mandy Kemp
King & Co, 7 Stratford Place
London, W1N 9AE
NO AGENCIES

Patricia Wilkinson
Appointments

THANKYOU

to everyone who either telephoned or wrote to us enquiring about the two senior PA positions we advertised on Wednesday 30th January. If we have not as yet contacted you please be assured this is not due to inertia on our part, or disinterest in your application; we were overwhelmed by the response and have received, to-date, 500 plus enquiries/cv's. Please bear with us and we will contact you all in the very near future with the view to meeting you.

We would also like to thank Client Companies for supporting us.

Patricia Wilkinson

Patricia Wilkinson
AppointmentsPublic Relations
PA/Sec - £13,000

This is a dynamic, fast-paced environment where the atmosphere is smart casual/trendy and where real commitment is winning real success. As PA/Sec to Account Director and one executive you will play a central role - loads of organisation, client liaison, office admin, diary co-ordinating etc. And when the pressure's on, your excellent WP skills (50 wpm+) need to be able to take the pace too! Flexible, reliable, willing approach? Warm, confident personality? Age 22-30 with proven work record? Call today and find out more, on 071-493 0713.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

Flair + Fluent German?
Marketing - £16,000

This is an extraordinary organisation - confident, outgoing, hardworking and, additionally, one of the most successful businesses in the world. As Secretary to their top European Marketer you will share a hectic, unpredictable, sometimes pressurised, role handling masses of travel organisations, liaison with media/journalists, office admin etc. in a dynamic, fast-paced environment. An interest in marketing is desirable. Reasonable fluency in German is essential. Confident keyboard skills (55 wpm) requested. Age 24+. For details please call 071-493 5787.

GORDON YATES

Recruitment Consultants

Opportunity Knocks!
£17,000

Further your career by joining the Chairman and his PA in one of the country's best known multinational companies with major interests in the music industry. As secretary, you will quickly learn the ropes - from dealing with confidential shorthand and typing to arranging corporate dinners. A cheerful, intelligent approach and Director level experience in a similar blue-chip company essential. Skills 100/60 and A Levels required. Age 22 - 35. Please telephone Virginia Wainke on 071-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

MULTILINGUAL
SERVICES

GERMANY: Experienced Bilingual Secretary, ideally with legal experience, to work for the Legal Counselor of major US corporation. Must have fluent German and English (the latter being the principal working language). Possibility of moving with them to Vienna. Circa DM60,000.

BRUSSELS: An exciting opportunity for a young Secretary with about one year's experience to join this small team. An interesting position involving statistical research, entering and up-dating computer data and full secretarial support. Audio or shorthand. Conv. French. BF900,250.

LONDON: Excellent French and English and BOTH shorthand are needed in this position as PA to the Director of a prestigious wine Department. A full PA role including organisation of wine promotions, liaising with French clients and running small office. Batterssea. £14,000 neg.

071 836 3794

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Managing Director of family-owned, London based international trading group requires a high calibre immaculately presented assistant to monitor and report Group activities from the London office during his frequent trips abroad.

The duties require a high degree of common sense, first class communication skills, discretion and initiative. Sound secretarial skills are needed and a knowledge of Arabic, though not essential, is desirable.

It is unlikely that a person under 25 will have the necessary authority and experience. CV and application in own handwriting in confidence in first instance with indication of salary required to:

Jonathan Wynne Evans

Knowlton Hill, Knowlton

South Molton, Devon EX36 4RT

P.A. TO DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR
£16K

Central London location

Fast expanding division of a multi-national company.

Demanding but understanding boss with a sense of fun needs a P.A. Must be hard-working, responsible, ambitious, with a sense of humour.

Good organisational skills and the ability to take the initiative. Excellent typing speed with sound w.p. experience, shorthand and audio.

Apply to:

P.O. Box 1286, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3RD.

Charity
£12,000

Give yourself purpose

and interest working

for a national

education-linked

charity in SE1 (easy

journey via Waterloo).

In the midst of the

small, friendly and

enthusiastic team you

will need fast audio

typing (60wpm), WP

knowledge, flexibility

and a good sense of

humour to become

totally involved from

day one. Age 28-50.

Please telephone

Victoria Harrington

on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

FAST FINANCE
£18,000 CIRCA

This dynamic, international investment company based in the West End, is looking for a PA/Sec who has worked at senior level and who has a knowledge of the City.

Your role will be varied and demanding as you organise two busy entrepreneurs' lives and run the office in their absence.

You should be flexible, bright, well presented with excellent communication skills and with the ability to use your initiative at all times.

Age 22-35 Skills 90/50

Hanover Square 071-408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER

Secretarial Recruitment Consultancy

PA/
SECRETARY
TO GROUP
MANAGING
DIRECTOR

The M.D. of a medium sized international company serving the Aviation Industry needs a Mature PA/Secretary with excellent secretarial skills and experience. The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and have good communication skills as well as a flexible attitude and sense of humour. The company is based at Heathrow and has worldwide offices and preference will be given to an applicant with complete knowledge of a European language. A remuneration of £16,000 plus benefits is offered. Please reply to the Personnel Office to Box No 2716.

MERIDIAN

PERSONNEL

SECRETARY

£14,000

Fast-growing media co in

London needs a single, young

personnel officer for their head

office. This involves some

months of personal work and

then steps for developing a

personnel team. Call Graham

Shaw.

Rec Cons

071-255 1555

Wates City Property Management Limited, the management company of Wates City of London Properties plc, operates at the forefront of property management techniques in the City of London.

We are now looking for a

SECRETARY/PA

to work with our Management Director and be part of a small hard working team.

You will be a good organiser and have a friendly and helpful nature. You will also be experienced in office practice and are likely to have achieved RSA III typewriting. Computer literacy would be helpful, but not essential.

If you would like to be considered for this very rare opportunity, send your comprehensive C.V. stating current salary to:-

Guy Williams

Director

Wates City Property Management Ltd

Level 21, City Tower

40 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DE

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Age 23 - 26 £16,500 + Superb Benefits

This is the nerve centre of one of the leading commercial companies. Assisting the Chief Executive and working alongside the Chairmen PA you will be a key member of the corporate decision making team. Shorthand (minimum 60 wpm), excellent keyboard skills and personal confidence gained from previous experience at Director level are essential. Please call Deborah Burrows on 071-491 1065.

La Creme

LA CRÈME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ACCOMPLISHED EXECUTIVE PA

Senior Partner of City based construction consultants seeks experienced PA to organise his challenging workload. Extensive experience at senior level plus excellent shorthand & w.p. skills essential (min 100/70).

Enthusiasm, flexibility, initiative, ability to thrive under pressure and a sense of humour, all vital. Excellent opportunity for a highly motivated individual and great remuneration who is keen to be involved with confidential matters including the future development of the practice and the company's marketing drive. Non-smokers only. Please send CV to 25 First class conditions and benefits. Please reply with full CV to:-

Angela Lawrence, AYN Partners

40 Colton Street, London EC2A 4AY Tel. 071 377 6666

SENIOR SECRETARY
EXCELLENT SALARY +
MORTGAGE SUBSIDY.

We are a small, highly professional Venture Capital Company based in the City. We require a confident, enthusiastic and committed Senior Secretary to work with two Partners and one Associate. Probably in your late thirties you will have excellent audio word processing skills (preferably Wordstar 2000).

We offer an excellent salary, commensurate with your skills and experience plus a comprehensive benefits package. Please write enclosing your c.v. in confidence to: Claire Vaughan, Philmore Ventures, Adlers, Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PD. No agencies.

PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
£13-14,000

We, role in Public Relations Co based near Old Street. Great opportunity for mature person to use initiative to get things done.

PR experience not necessary. Might suit someone wishing to resume career after raising a family. We are open to suggestions.

CONTACT NICKY ON 071 729 6083

Executive Secretary
£ Neg + Banking Benefits

Enjoy the variety of working for the Marketing Manager within this top international firm. You'll need to be an excellent administrator and your strong communication skills will enable you to liaise at all levels. Top notch secretarial skills (60wpm) are essential. Age 25+.

PR Secretary
£12,000

An excellent opportunity for a PR Secretary looking for that second career move. Plenty of scope to use your PR experience when working for three account executives. Good secretarial skills combined with a strong administration ability is vital.

To discuss these or other career options contact Kate Slesor, Terry O'Neill or Caroline Rogers on 071 629 7262.

SECRETARIAL

APPOINTMENTS

PRINCIPLES STREET LONDON W1

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

071 493 0713

YOUNG, UPBEAT, STYLISH?
HAMBURG

Enthusiastic, hard working and resourceful? Join this famous and dynamic company as secretary in their Hamburg office. You are mid 20's, speak fluent German and English of mother-tongue standard. Shorthand preferred for this glamorous marketing/promotion firm - immediate start, 2 year contract. £14,000 - £16,000.

Call Ann Walker
on 071 377 2666

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

WINE SHIPPERS.
LONDON SW6

We are looking for a Secretary for our small but busy office. A salary in the region of £13,000 will be offered depending on experience. If you are self-motivated, neat, and have good processing skills. A good knowledge of French is essential.

Apply in writing to:

Jeremy Roberts

Peter A Sichel and Val D'Oro Wines Ltd.

73 Moore Park Road London SW6 2HF.

071-736 3350

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

IDRAKE PERSONNEL

SPRINGTIME IN PARIS

Our client, a prestigious, international legal organisation, is looking to recruit for 2 vacancies within its Paris office. PA Secretary - a senior position for a top candidate, with excellent shorthand in both English/French. An ideal opportunity for somebody with flair and initiative who enjoys communicating with clients.

Receptionist - this position will suit an experienced, responsive, with basic typing who enjoys liaising with clients and using their French and organisational skills. If you meet the requirements of either these positions and would like to work in the world's most beautiful and cosmopolitan city please call Katherine Pooley on 071-754 0911.

EXPERIENCED
SECRETARY
4 OR 5 DAYS
PER WEEK

Required for 2 Directors of a small property company in W1. Near Baker St, Bond St and Oxford Circus.

WP capability essential

Some admin and record keeping.

Applications/CV to:

Glenn Estates Ltd

9 Wimpole Street

London, W1M 7AB

(No agencies)

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

DOCKLANDS
£14,500 + gt bens

As sec to easy-going

Director of Finance you will

manage the most of your

financial secretarial

experience. Become involved

with credit control and work

to a team of 4.

Extensive global telephone

liaison - Portuguese or French

preferred. Phone

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

JUNIOR AUDIO
SECRETARY

West End Property Company seeks well presented Junior Audio Secretary to join their Management Department - College leavers welcome to apply.

Typing 55+ wpm - Multitask WP an advantage

Age 19-25

Salary £9,000 - 10,500 neg + Benefits

Please send CV with covering letter to: CSB/OMD,

Fletcher King, Stratton House, Stratton Street,

London, W1X 5FE.

NO AGENCIES

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

071-434 0030

TRAINING
COURSES
WORD
PROCESSING
TYPING
SHORTHAND

Amadeus Business

Training

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071 499 5607

071-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481



The Airtime Sales and Marketing Departments of TVS Television Ltd and London Weekend Television have merged to form Laser Sales Ltd which is based on the South Bank. Laser Sales currently has the following vacancies:

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST - This position is seen as providing an important communication/PR role and candidates must therefore have previous experience of using a busy switchboard while dealing with visitors; the ability to deal with all levels of staff; and be of smart appearance.

SECRETARY - The successful candidate will have excellent secretarial skills (100 shorthand and 50 typing) including work processing experience with preferably some work experience. Candidates must be able to use their initiative and work under pressure in a hectic sales environment.

If you feel you can fulfil the above requirements then please apply in writing with a full CV to

Vicky Hemming
Personnel and Administration Manager
Laser Sales Ltd
South Bank Television Centre
Upper Ground
London SE1 9NW.

A CHALLENGING NEW POSITION AT THE HEART OF OUR EUROPEAN OPERATION SECRETARY/PA

InterTAN - better known as Tandy - is an international consumer electronics retailer with over 1,100 outlets throughout Europe. We now require a high-calibre Secretary/PA for the Vice President of our European operation, based in Brussels. This is a very prestigious role calling for a mature and professional approach to the appointment. Responsibilities will involve organisation of travel arrangements and meetings, the liaison with directors of the company's other operations in the UK, France, Holland and Belgium, and general day-to-day secretarial assistance expected at this senior level. Applicants should have a good understanding of both written and spoken French, good organisational abilities, well-developed interpersonal skills and the enthusiasm and self-motivation necessary to respond to this challenging new role. You can expect a competitive salary commensurate with experience and an attractive benefits package. Interviews will be held in the UK. If you have the qualities we seek and would welcome a European challenge, please apply in the first instance (with full CV) to:

Mr. M. D. Smyth, Operations Support Director, InterTAN UK Ltd,
Tandy Centre, Leamore Lane, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 7PS.

Tandy

£14,500 & excellent package City

Our client, a successful subsidiary of a large US owned financial organisation is seeking a young, intelligent secretary for their Company Secretary. Ideally with a financial background you will use your secretarial and administrative skills to the full in this busy role. You must be flexible, diplomatic with plenty of initiative. Skills 80/60.

Senior Secretaries
173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB
071-499 0092
(Fax 071-491 7276)
Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY

EXCELLENT SALARY WEST END

We are a leading firm of Chartered Surveyors and Property Consultants based in the West End.

We require an enthusiastic and committed Secretary to work for a partner and his team. You will have excellent audio skills preferably with experience of the "Word Perfect" word processing system. You will be a good organiser with a confident, enthusiastic and professional manner.

We offer an excellent salary commensurate with your skills and abilities plus a comprehensive benefits package. If you would like to be fully involved in supporting the activities of this successful and friendly department, write enclosing c.v. in confidence to:

Mandy Kemp, King & Co,
7 Stratford Place, London W1N 9AE
NO AGENCIES

Married to the Mob Package £20,000

Godfather of Sales in UK. Equities Division of International banking group seeks a secretary to join the family.

Largely administrative, this contract requires a sure-fire 24-27 year old who will thrive in the racket of a dealing-room. Coordinating lunches, seminars and meetings for a large and boisterous sales gang requires bullet-proof initiative, patience and humour. Good WP skills essential. A levels preferred. Generous protection includes immediate mortgage subsidy and paid overtime.

Please telephone Sabina Stewart on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Reach For The Sky

£13,000 + prospects

Part of one of the country's leading retail groups, our client is setting the pace in the property field. As PA/Sec to a young, likeable Project Manager you will enjoy a lively, team-oriented environment along with day-to-day dealings with leading architects, builders etc. Strong personality common sense, lots of initiative and top-notch keyboard skills are all pre-requisites for this excellent, high quality position. The company acknowledges merit and promotes from within. Excellent benefits package inc. bonus scheme. Age 20-30. Interested? Call for details on 071-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

Select Career Appointment Novation

30 Appointments in Europe for Executive Secretaries.

Excellent salary/benefits for applicants with good references and excellent communication skills. Individual presentation/Interviews. Electronic marketing techniques.

Send resume with recent photo
S.C.A.M. Inc
Euro Business Center
Parklawn
NL-3116 B Rotterdam,
Holland
Tel: 010-3110-4365113.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/PA

£20,000

WEST LONDON

Working alongside the Chief Executive of one of this country's leading oil exploration companies is tough, challenging and requires a person of character and sound judgement.

Our client controls a multi-million dollar budget and has worldwide responsibilities.

He needs a PA who can ease the burden of administration, act as an extension of himself and interface with top ranking executives on his behalf. Skills 110/70. Age 30-40.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

071 629 9323

SUPER SECRETARIES

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

ADMIN SEC £12,000++ for experienced, high profile, modern office secretaries. Excellent salary, pension, medical, and a day's holiday. Must be a must. Lots of experience. Call for details. 071-499 0092.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

THREE PA/SECRETARIES POLISH SPEAKING - WARSAW

6 Months Renewable Contract

Our clients are responsible for the privatisation programme in Poland. You will be joining an existing happy team at an exciting time - there will be lots of pressure, hard work and enormous job satisfaction. Essential attributes include excellent secretarial and WP skills (Microsoft Word), organisational and administrative ability and the desire to work with an innovative group of lawyers, bankers and accountants who are responsible for this momentous project.

For further details of the generous package offered please call Jane Craswell or JCR Executive, 071 581 2977 or fax CVs to 071 581 1766.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

Japanese speaker? £20,000 pkg

The London Office of a major financial firm seeks a UNIQUE person for one of their Managing Directors - someone with Japanese as their second language. Duties will involve secretarial work for the MD, combined with administrative back-up to a small team of Japanese traders. You could be a graduate with Japanese as part of your degree, someone who has worked in Japan or a secretary/administrator wishing to use this language. Age 22-35, typing/ WP required. Fantastic benefits!

Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

The Language Specialists

MANAGEMENT PA/Sec for a major financial firm. The London Office of a major financial firm seeks a UNIQUE person for one of their Managing Directors - someone with Japanese as their second language. Duties will involve secretarial work for the MD, combined with administrative back-up to a small team of Japanese traders. You could be a graduate with Japanese as part of your degree, someone who has worked in Japan or a secretary/administrator wishing to use this language. Age 22-35, typing/ WP required. Fantastic benefits!

Please telephone Catherine Ferguson on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

NON-SECRETARIAL

Career Move £16,500 plus Bonus

A unique opportunity exists for a self-motivated and enthusiastic person to join a privately-owned investment company in WI, where they will train you to become a Client Accounts Controller. This will involve extensive telephone liaison with brokers and clients worldwide, analysis of investment risk, production of client reports, data manipulation and much more. Applicants must have good data entry/computer experience, a solid education (degree or A levels) and be familiar with figurework. Age 24-30. Background in settlements or similar an advantage. Please call Lynne Dawson on 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

People Person? to £16,500 - W1

Group Personnel Director of large international services company seeks a motivated Sec/PA with fluent French. Based in stylish London headquarters you will support executive overseas liaison, similar with personnel projects and generally help run a busy department. You need accurate skills (80/60/wp), an eye for detail and a confident, friendly manner. Age 23-30. English mother tongue. Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 071-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECR

[illegible]

GOLF

R and A attempts to close Open door on practical jokers

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal and Ancient has tightened up significantly on the conditions of entry for the 1991 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale from July 18 to 21, and thereby hopes to have closed the door on gate-crashing hackers.

All professionals who enter will have to be members of a recognised association, a requirement not previously applied. This should bring the curtain down on the antics of Maurice Filitcroft, a crane-driver from Barrow-in-Furness, who in 1976 managed to complete the first round in the final qualifying competition, scoring 121 before withdrawing.

Filitcroft, who said he had practised on the beach, has attempted on several other occasions to bluff his way into the field by the use of pseudonyms, such as J. B. Jolly and Gerald Hoppy.

Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the R and A, said: "The new conditions should help stop a Maurice Filitcroft playing, although if a person chose to falsify his identity and used a fictitious PGA membership number then it might just happen. The championship committee also now reserves the right to disqualify any competitor making a false statement on

his entry form."

That, of course, was not the case in 1985, when Walter Daeck, a post office clerk from Milwaukee, obtained an entry form by claiming he was a professional. He did not have a handicap and was not a member of a club, although he insisted that he made his entry as a professional because he wanted to keep the money if he won. His scores of 108 and 113 in the qualifying rounds exposed him.

Professional golfers living outside Europe were previously exempt from regional qualifying but exemptions now will be granted only to those who have achieved a certain standing on one of the world's leading tours. An exception will be made for a small number of the leading PGA and PGA of America club professionals and anyone who played in last year's Championship.

Bonallack added: "We have made changes because last year we had to put on an extra qualifying course because of the number of overseas professionals that entered. We also had 87 amateurs with plus handicaps going straight into the final qualifying, which left hardly any room for progress for those in the

regional qualifying. It was pretty obvious by the scores that some were not really qualified to play in the Open."

Another decision, no longer to provide playing members of the previous Ryder Cup teams with automatic exemption from final qualifying, could place pressure on Christy O'Connor Jr and José María Canizares, among others.

The R and A will, however, continue to encourage younger tournament professionals by exempting 20 from both the European PGA Challenge Tour and the US PGA Ben Hogan Tour.

The 120th Open, the seventh to be played at Royal Birkdale, will have a prize fund of £900,000 — up by £75,000 from 1990 — and the champion will receive £90,000. This obviously raises the possibility of the first £1 million Open being played at Muirfield next year.

Bonallack, however, is not so confident. "This could be a very difficult year with the economic climate as it is. I certainly think that if the problem in the Gulf is not resolved that a number of Americans might not come over."

Sinclair takes up new post

By MITCHELL PLATT

SANDY Sinclair, the former Scottish international, has succeeded the late Keith Mackenzie as president of the Golf Foundation.

Sinclair, aged 70, who served in the Royal Artillery during the second world war, is a former West of Scotland champion and the only winner of all six scratch medals for which the Royal and Ancient competes. He completed the set when in 1989 he received the Queen Adelaide Medal on driving into office as Captain of the R and A. He was chairman of the R and A selection committee from 1969 to 1975, during which period Great Britain and Ireland won the Walker Cup (1971), Sinclair, who also served as

chairman of the R and A amateur status committee from 1978 to 1981, received in 1979 the Frank Moran award for his contribution to golf. He was made an OBE in the 1990 New Year's Honours list.

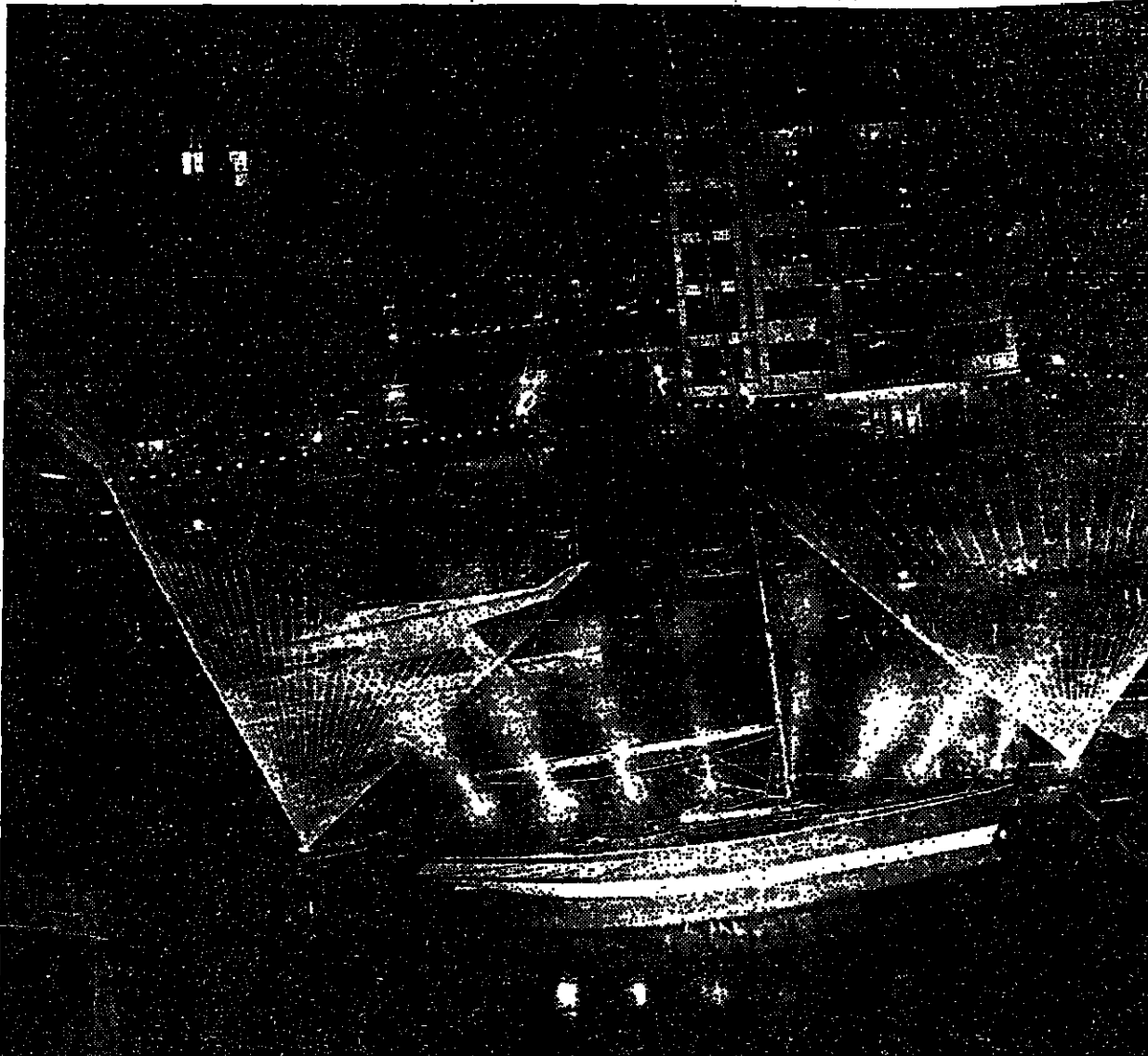
Mhairi McKay, who is a member of Bothwell Castle Golf Club and Turnberry, has won the girls' section of the Golf Foundation Award for 1990. She became at the age of 15 one of the youngest winners of the Scottish girls' championship, in addition to winning the Glasgow schools championship and the Clark Rosebush. She represented Scotland in several championships. Keith Law, aged 17, of Forfar, won the boys' section.

The Golf Foundation will organise the Age Group Championships of Great Britain and Ireland, for the fourth successive time, with the support of NatWest Bank. The competition is open to young golfers with a handicap of 35 or less who are under 16 on August 31, 1991. Fourteen regional finals will supply the field for the final at Panshull Park, Shropshire, on August 19 and 20.

Mary Anderson, who started her golfing life in England, and for the past 15 years has been active in women's golf in Ireland, both as a player and an administrator, is the new chairman of the Ladies' Golf Union.

Cup campaign takes flight on Wings of Oracle

DESS JENSON



WINGS of Oracle, which was unveiled at Chelsea Harbour yesterday, is the first fully commercially sponsored yacht to try for a place in Britain's Admiral's Cup team (Malcolm McKee writes).

While others have enjoyed commercial support for their national teams for several years, British firms have generally been slow to see benefits accruing from yachting involvement,

despite the publicity successes of projects like Steinlager, Rothmans and Corman.

The new boat, which has been designed by Bruce Farr, built by Green Marine in Lymington, Hampshire, and paid for by a computer software firm, will have little competition for her place in the three-boat team, since she will probably be the only competitive Two Tonner in Britain.

The rules of the Champagne Mumm

Admiral's Cup were changed for 1991 to require each team to consist of a 50-footer, a One Tonner and a boat from the new Two Ton classification.

Although the change was widely welcomed, fewer of the new yachts than expected have been built because of the recession. The world shortage of Two Tonners could well make the role of Wings of Oracle particularly crucial.

Radio failure cuts off flow of advice

By BARRY PICKTHALL

JOHN Martin, whose 60ft Soutar African yacht, *Allied Bank*, holds a 16-and-a-half-hour overall lead in the BOC single-handed round the world race, has radio failure just three days into the 7,200-mile third stage around Cape Horn.

Martin, now in fourth place, 58 miles astern of the fleet leader, Alain Gautier's French yacht, *General Concorde*, is cut off from the private weather

routing advice which has proved crucial during the first two stages of the race.

He had a similar problem during the closing stages of the first leg to Cape Town, and as a result, dropped from first to third.

The cause was a loose connection in the yacht's central electrical circuit and Martin will be searching for a similar fault in the hope of regaining contact with the outside world before reaching the Roding Forties in a few days.

Gautier, who led the fleet into Cape Town, was making the best speed yesterday — 11.4 knots — against the 10 knot average set by the two chasing French rivals, Christophe Auguin's *Groupe Seta* and Eouenil Potou's *Charantes*, skippered by Isabelle Antissier.

The two British skippers, Josh Hall and Robin Davis are both last in their respective classes after both fell into calms mid-way across the Tasman Sea yesterday.

LEADING PORTIONS (at 13.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este): Class 1.5, General Concorde (A) 6,000; Class 2, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 3, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 4, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 5, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 6, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 7, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 8, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 9, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 10, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 11, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 12, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 13, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 14, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 15, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 16, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 17, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 18, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 19, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 20, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 21, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 22, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 23, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 24, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 25, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 26, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 27, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 28, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 29, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 30, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 31, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 32, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 33, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 34, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 35, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 36, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 37, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 38, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 39, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 40, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 41, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 42, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 43, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 44, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 45, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 46, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 47, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 48, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 49, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 50, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 51, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 52, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 53, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 54, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 55, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 56, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 57, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 58, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 59, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 60, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 61, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 62, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 63, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 64, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 65, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 66, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 67, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 68, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 69, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 70, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 71, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 72, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 73, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 74, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 75, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 76, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 77, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 78, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 79, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 80, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 81, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 82, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 83, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 84, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 85, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 86, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 87, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 88, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 89, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 90, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 91, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 92, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 93, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 94, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 95, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 96, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 97, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 98, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 99, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 100, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 101, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 102, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 103, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 104, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 105, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 106, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 107, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 108, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 109, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 110, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 111, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 112, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 113, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 114, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 115, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 116, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 117, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 118, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 119, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 120, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 121, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 122, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 123, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 124, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 125, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 126, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 127, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 128, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 129, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 130, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 131, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 132, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 133, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 134, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 135, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 136, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 137, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 138, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 139, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 140, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 141, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 142, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 143, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 144, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 145, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 146, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 147, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 148, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 149, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 150, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 151, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 152, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 153, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 154, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 155, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 156, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 157, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 158, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 159, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 160, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 161, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 162, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 163, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 164, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 165, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 166, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 167, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 168, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 169, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 170, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 171, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 172, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 173, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 174, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 175, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 176, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 177, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 178, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 179, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 180, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 181, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 182, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 183, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 184, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 185, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 186, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 187, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 188, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 189, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 190, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 191, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 192, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 193, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 194, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 195, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 196, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 197, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 198, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 199, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 200, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 201, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 202, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 203, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 204, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 205, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 206, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 207, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 208, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 209, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 210, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 211, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 212, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 213, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 214, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 215, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 216, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 217, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 218, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 219, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 220, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 221, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 222, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 223, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 224, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 225, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 226, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 227, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 228, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 229, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 230, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 231, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 232, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 233, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 234, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 235, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 236, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 237, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 238, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 239, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 240, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 241, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 242, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 243, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 244, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 245, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 246, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 247, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 248, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 249, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 250, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 251, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 252, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 253, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 254, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 255, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 256, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 257, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 258, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 259, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 260, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 261, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 262, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 263, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 264, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 265, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 266, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 267, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 268, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 269, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 270, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 271, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 272, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 273, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 274, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 275, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 276, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 277, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 278, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 279, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 280, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 281, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 282, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 283, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 284, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 285, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 286, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 287, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 288, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 289, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 290, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 291, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 292, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 293, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 294, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 295, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 296, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 297, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 298, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 299, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 300, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 301, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 302, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 303, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 304, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 305, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 306, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 307, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 308, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 309, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 310, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 311, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 312, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 313, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 314, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 315, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 316, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 317, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 318, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 319, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 320, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 321, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 322, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 323, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 324, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 325, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 326, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 327, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 328, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 329, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 330, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 331, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 332, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 333, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 334, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 335, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 336, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 337, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 338, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 339, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 340, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 341, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 342, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 343, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 344, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 345, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 346, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 347, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 348, *General Concorde* (A) 6,000; Class 349, *General Concorde* (A) 6,

Cosmic Dancer to relish longer trip

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

SUCCESS will be running in the family if Singing Forever (1.55) and Cosmic Dancer (3.25) both manage to win at Southwell today.

Singing Forever, my selection for the Design Contractors Juvenile Novices Hurdle, was bought last autumn by her Jersey-based owner, Charles Billot, with a view to winning the St Malo Grand Prix on the Flat next month.

Since then this daughter of Chief Singer has not only nearly recovered her purchase price by winning twice over today's course and distance, she has also given her owner's daughter, Sally Ann, who is trainer Tim Thomson Jones's pupil assistant, two victories.

Each time Miss Billot was coolness personified in the closing stages, even though she and Singing Forever were challenged on both occasions

by Steve Smith Eddies on Snuggles.

When she was trained for Flat racing by Ian Baking, Singing Forever showed consistently moderate form and cost her present owner only 3,600 guineas, even though she had a good pedigree.

Now that she has been asked to race and jump she has turned over a new leaf and her form has been upheld by Snuggles winning at Lingfield last week.

In going up on Cosmic Dancer to win the Curate Novices' Handicap Hurdle, I am banking on Sean Woods, being able to deliver the goods on a horse owned by his brother Dayne.

Their last attempt ended in failure a fortnight ago when they were beaten into fourth place behind Mountain Retreat, Qualifier Fighter and



Flashback to April as Mr Frisk leads Durham Edition over the last in the National. The runner-up is 10th better off for three-quarters of a length in this year's weights

Richards pair dominate Grand National picture

GORDON Richards, twice a winner of the Grand National and Lucius, has dominated the early betting on this year's Aintree spectacular after publication of the weights yesterday.

Corals have installed Rims, last year's third, 14-1 favourite with his stable companion, Twin Oaks, on 16-1, the Crested trainer is only 6-1 to train his third National winner. The Richards pair are 16-1 joint-favourites with Ladbrokes.

Rims has been allotted 10st 3lb - 1lb less than he carried last year - while Twin Oaks, winner of his last four races, has 10st 9lb.

Richards expects his jockey, Neale Doughty, who has completed the course on all seven occasions he has ridden in the race, to put up overweight on Rims.

"Neale can do 10-4 but I think he would be better doing 10-5. He is a very fit man but I would prefer him to be at his strongest," Richards said.

Twin Oaks is going for the Greenall Gold Cup next and Rims could well run in that as well. Rims will need two or three races before the National.

Mr Frisk, who carried 10st 6lb in his victory over Durham Edition, has 11st 2lb this time and is 10lb worse off with the runner-up for three-quarters of a length. Durham Edition's trainer, Arthur Stephenson, may also run The Thinker, third in 1989, off 11st 4lb.

The Bishop Auckland trainer

was not pleased with the weight allotted to his horses. He said: "The handicapper hasn't done us any favours. Neither of my horses are improving with age. Durham Edition hasn't been able to win in the last three years so how is he going to do it now when he is carrying the same weight. I had hoped the handicapper would drop them both."

Sirrell Griffiths declared himself "excited and proud" over the weight given to Norton's Coin. Christopher Mordaunt has given the Gold Cup winner Norton's Coin 11st 10lb, and he shares top weight with Czecho-slovakian mare Frazz.

Griffiths, who farms at Nantgarreg in Wales, said: "It's a great honour to have a horse good enough to have top weight in a race like the National."

"His weight is about what I expected and when the horse has run in Ireland in the Hennessy Gold Cup and had another crack at Cheltenham, we will make a decision about whether he runs."

Frazz, who finished a close second in the top Czechoslovakian chase, the Vefia Pardubice, has automatic top weight as he has never raced at Aintree and has no handicap mark.

Connections have already made enquiries about travel and arrangements and Frazz is an intended runner.

Norton's Coin is handicapped 11lb above Toby Tobias, the horse he beat to win last year's Gold Cup.

Toby Tobias is one of six horses Jenny Pitman has engaged in the race, though his main target is the Gold Cup. Garrison Savannah has been allotted 10st 11lb and Golden Froze 10st 10lb.

Mrs Pitman said: "I would be happy with those weights and, of that trio, Golden Froze would be the most likely to run at Aintree. He was bought to be a National horse and it is the intention to run him."

Sagarm, the horse named after the race sponsors, is weighted at 10st 2lb. His trainer, David Barons, is in New Zealand but assistant Paul Nicholls said: "I'm sure David will be very pleased. He has always been jumping big weights previously but this is a racing mark."

Con Marnane, who recently took over the training of last year's seventh, Call Collect, was equally pleased the hunter chase champion's 10st 2lb.

"That's 3lb less than last year so I'm happy enough with that. The National is his main objective," he said from his base in Banahy, Tipperary.

Call Collect has yet to race this season but is expected to reappear at Ayr next Wednesday. Marnane added: "He'll then go for the Punchestown National Trial on February 23 and then straight to Cheltenham. He is entered in the Foxhunters and the Gold Cup but I'll let the owner make the final decision."

Among many novelty bets on the race, Corals offer 1,000-1 against Mr Frisk, Durham Edition and Rims finishing first, second and third again.

The ante-post gamble on Major inquiry for Saturday's Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury continued yesterday with David Elsworth's five-year-old cut from 8-1 to 13-2 by Hills.

Lord Huntingdon saddles the Queen's four-year-old filly Varnish in the Prix Lédoux over a mile at Cagnes today.

Bill Wighams, in his 55th year as a trainer, completed a rare double with Inswinger and Russian Red at Lingfield yesterday.

Frost eliminates Ascot

TODAY'S programme at Ascot, the richest one-day meeting in the National Hunt calendar, was called off yesterday because of frost. The meeting will now be run next Wednesday.

With today's other scheduled turf meeting at Ludlow already abandoned, all-weather racing is set to come to the rescue for the third day running.

Prospects for the week's remaining turf meetings are bleak. Tomorrow's meetings at Huntingdon (noon inspection) and Wincanton (3pm) are in grave doubt and Newbury also inspect today (2pm), 48 hours in advance of Friday's meeting.

Yesterday's Warwick meeting abandoned after a 7am inspection.

Gifford plea on fences

JOSH Gifford, who won the Grand National ten years ago with Aldanti, yesterday pleaded with officials not to doctor the Aintree fences any more for the sake of public safety.

He warned that alterations made to the course last year to reduce the casualty rate were reducing its appeal. "Please don't go any further," he said. "Call it the National and not get too soft with the race. Jumping is the essence of it all so let's keep it a jumping race."

Gifford, who has six entries in

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 12148 0000 TIMES 13 (P/F/L) (Mrs D. Robinson) 5 11-10 West (7) 85

Racecard notes: 22-ages form (P-F) - fall, pulled up, U - unsound rider, B - brought down, S - soft, good to soft, heavy, Owner in, D - disqualified, Horse's name, Days since last outing, F - flat, H - hurdles, V - veteran, D - distance winner, C - course and course winner.

2.25 CURATE NOVICES HURDLE (21.740: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 11418 CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE 11 (P) (A. Acosta) Mrs V. Acosta 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Acosta) Ronald Thompson 5-11-5 J. Coates (7) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
6 80407 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
7 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
8 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
9 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
10 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
11 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
12 80047 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87

FORM FOCUS CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE (P/F) (Mrs V. Acosta) 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87. CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE (P/F) (Mrs V. Acosta) 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87. CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE (P/F) (Mrs V. Acosta) 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87. CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE (P/F) (Mrs V. Acosta) 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87. CANTAMEDIA COTTAGE (P/F) (Mrs V. Acosta) 5-12-4 J. Coates (7) 87.

2.55 VERGER NOVICES HURDLE (21.690: 3m) (8 runners)

1 80415 WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
2 80416 WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
3 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80407 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
5 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
6 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
7 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
8 80047 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87

FORM FOCUS WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84. WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84. WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84. WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84. WICK POUND 15 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84.

4.25 VICAR HURDLE (21.645: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

1 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
3 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84

FORM FOCUS COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

Course specialists

TRAINERS

Trainer	Wins	Places	Per cent
J. Upton	9	21	42.9
M. V. Acosta	5	14	35.7
T. Thomson	12	47	26.7
P. Nicholls	3	19	15.6

JOCKEYS

Jockey	Rides	Wins	Per cent
J. Coates	10	3	30.0
T. Thomson	10	3	30.0
R. Sheple	7	3	42.9

Gifford plea on fences

JOSH Gifford, who won the Grand National ten years ago with Aldanti, yesterday pleaded with officials not to doctor the Aintree fences any more for the sake of public safety.

He warned that alterations made to the course last year to reduce the casualty rate were reducing its appeal. "Please don't go any further," he said. "Call it the National and not get too soft with the race. Jumping is the essence of it all so let's keep it a jumping race."

Gifford, who has six entries in

Gifford plea on fences

JOSH Gifford, who won the Grand National ten years ago with Aldanti, yesterday pleaded with officials not to doctor the Aintree fences any more for the sake of public safety.

He warned that alterations made to the course last year to reduce the casualty rate were reducing its appeal. "Please don't go any further," he said. "Call it the National and not get too soft with the race. Jumping is the essence of it all so let's keep it a jumping race."

Gifford, who has six entries in

Selections

By Mandarin

1.55 Singing Forever.
2.25 Occident.
2.55 Loggannon.
3.25 CURATE DANCER (nap).
3.55 Wick Pound.
4.25 Ha'penny Nap.

By Thunderer

1.55 Singing Forever.
2.25 Oxford Place.
2.55 Loggannon.
3.25 CURATE DANCER (nap).
3.55 Wick Pound.
4.25 King Of Shadows.

By Michael Seely

2.55 Peadley Gold. 3.25 THREE LAKES (nap). 4.25 Ha'penny Nap.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.55 STRONG BREEZE.

Going standard

1.55 DESIGN CONTRACTORS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: 2m) (7 runners)

1 8111 SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
6 80407 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
7 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

2.25 DESIGN CONTRACTORS SELLING HURDLE (21.690: 2m) (16 runners)

1 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
2 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
3 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
4 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
5 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
6 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
7 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
8 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
9 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
10 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
11 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
12 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
13 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
14 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
15 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
16 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

2.55 BISHOP HURDLE (21.601: 2m) (5 runners)

1 8111 SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

3.55 WICK POUND (21.645: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

1 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
3 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84

FORM FOCUS COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

4.25 VICAR HURDLE (21.645: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

1 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
3 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84

FORM FOCUS COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

5.25 BISHOP HURDLE (21.601: 2m) (5 runners)

1 8111 SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

6.25 VICAR HURDLE (21.645: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

1 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
3 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84

FORM FOCUS COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

7.25 BISHOP HURDLE (21.601: 2m) (5 runners)

1 8111 SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

8.25 VICAR HURDLE (21.645: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

1 2004 COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 80414 SHABANAH 10 (P) (A. Williams) J. Upton 5-10-4 R. Sheple (8) 87
3 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
4 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84

FORM FOCUS COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. COMING DANCER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

9.25 BISHOP HURDLE (21.601: 2m) (5 runners)

1 8111 SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87
2 12290 TIER TIER 12 (P) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87
3 80045 THREE LAKES 16 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
4 80046 TURTLE 12 (P) (Mrs M. Gifford) S. Gifford 7-11-3 M. Hunt (8) 84
5 10100 STRANGER 11 (P/F) (A. Williams) S. Stevens 4-10-12 W. Marshall (8) 87

FORM FOCUS SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87. SINGING FOREVER 14 (D. Woods) A. Williams 4-10-4 J. A. Harris (8) 87.

NETBALL

Bedfordshire team again last week.

Should she fail to prove her fitness, Lowe may have to readjust her sights to the world tournament in Australia this summer. The outlook is more encouraging for Jessy Parkes, the England goalkeeper, who made an impressive comeback for Middlesex after six months out with an Achilles tendon injury.

Parkes performed a successful marking job on Joan Bryan, an England goal-shooter, as Middlesex beat Birmingham, her old club, 59-54. That leaves Middlesex second and Birmingham third in the PES

SWIMMING

Davies moves to Portsmouth to toughen up

By CRAIG LOR

SHARRON Davies is switching clubs from Bracknell to Portsmouth Northside in the hope that a tougher training regime will help her back to Olympic form after a year of disappointment and frustration.

Davies made her decision after consulting Rosa Gallop, of Bracknell, who has coached the Olympic silver medal winner since her comeback in 1989 after an "eight-year break".

"I felt I needed to be part of a big club with a squad of top swimmers," Davies said. "I talked to Rosa and she felt the same way. With no disrespect to Bracknell and Rosa, to whom I'm very grateful, you couldn't ask for a better set-up than Portsmouth.

Football's move in the right direction

By TOM PENDRY

YESTERDAY'S Home Affairs Select Committee report on the Football Licensing Authority (FLA) is a vindication of football. The view that the future lies in consultation and co-operation between all sections of the game has taken a long time to sink in, despite the efforts of those who have argued for a constructive approach to be adopted. It is reassuring to see that the view appears, at last, to be gaining credence.

Since Lord Justice Taylor's rejection of identity cards and call for "the vision and imagination to achieve a new ethos for football" the game has made great strides towards realising the facilities for which he called. Yet unfortunately it has been held

back by Government delays in establishing the Football Licensing Authority (FLA), by the diversion of precious resources to meet an indefensible rise in police costs and by the absence of legislation to curb unacceptable behaviour on the terraces.

The Select Committee says that its aim is "not to reheat cold cabbage by again going over all the ground considered by Taylor, but to ensure that parliamentary scrutiny maintains the pressure to promote better and safer conditions at sports grounds as Taylor and his predecessors intended" and its 54 recommendations for action - almost exactly one for each week since the publication of the Taylor Report - demonstrate the serious thought that has gone into the

Committee's deliberations. The result is a positive package of measures that build upon Taylor's findings. If Taylor provided the blueprint for football, the Committee has come up with many of the necessary materials.

In rejecting full economic charging for policing at football matches and calling for a re-examination of the requirement that smaller grounds become all-seater, the financial consequences of which would almost undoubtedly lead to the closure of several clubs, the Committee has won a victory for common sense. As its report says, a policy which would put clubs out of business is to be found in the language of politics.

Furthermore, the initiative taken by members of the Select Committee in bringing forward a Bill to give legislative effect to Taylor's recommendations that offences be created outlawing racist chanting, missile-throwing and invading the pitch without reasonable excuse has placed the ball firmly in the Government's court. These measures, if enacted, will promote the kind of atmosphere and behaviour that will attract the wider audience vital to the game's future and, in particular, families.

Perhaps the major step forward is the recognition of the report that a fundamental prerequisite for future progress is the promotion of community links and formal

supporter representation at a decision-making level, together with the establishment of what is termed an "honest broker" between the competing interests of clubs, police, local authorities and Government.

What form should this broker take? The Committee suggests the possibility of the FLA, although concedes that it is not advisable "to put pressure upon the FLA to run before it can walk." I would argue that a Football Levy Board, made up of representatives from every corner of the game (including supporters) with an indirect input to necessary Government decisions. Such a board, which was recommended by both the 1968 Chester Report and the 1978

Rothschild Commission on Gambling, could be the ideal vehicle to apply the continual pressure recognised as a necessity by the Select Committee.

Whatever form the broker takes, one thing is certain. With the deadlines for conversion to all-seater accommodation at first and second division stadiums fast approaching, it will have a vital role in re-shaping a nineteenth century-structured sport and equipping it for the 21st century. This report is an important step towards that goal.

Tom Pendry is the chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Football Committee and chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Sports Committee.

England players end agreement with Willis agency

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

The first foray by England's leading players into the world of sports commerce ended yesterday when Will Carling, the England captain, announced the end of their agreement with WHJ Promotions, the marketing agency run by Bob and David Willis.

The brief but increasingly turbulent relationship began last October, after the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) announced a relaxation of the amateur regulations which would permit players to earn money outside the game. Since then the profile of the marketing company has been as high, if not higher, than that of its clients, which is the wrong way round, perhaps both sides are sadder and wiser now.

In effect the players have decided to put on hold their commercial aspirations until the completion of the five nations' championship on March 16; the IRFB's annual meeting the following week may clarify what is permissible for players, though that cannot be guaranteed either.

In a statement yesterday, Carling said the players' company, "Player Vision Ltd," had ended amicably its contractual relationship with WHJ Promotions. "This decision has been taken bearing in mind the point at which the players find themselves in the five nations' championship," the statement continued.

The players will continue to devote their energies to continuing success on the field. There are no plans to appoint another agency in the foreseeable future. All commercial activity will be dealt with internally until further notice.

In addition to the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will act as a clearing house for any deals proposed to the players.

What has most upset the players (who realise the damage that has been done to their collective image) is the reaction to events at Cardiff last month, when their request for a BBC

interview fee and failure to attend a press conference after the Wales-England match resulted in an official reprimand this week for Geoff Cooke, the team manager.

Carling admitted that the players were now seen as being more concerned with money than with rugby, which is far from the truth. Brian Moore, the Harlequins hooker and, owing to his legal background, readily identified as the players' other main spokesman, said they wanted an immediate meeting with the RFU to thrash out an understanding to cover the next six weeks, until the union itself believes it has found a surer ground upon which to stand.

"We would prefer to have long-term close relationships with blue-chip sponsors," Moore said. "Until the IRFB interprets the rules for more liberal commercial activities are virtually barred except for high-profile players. It's difficult to find a simple way forward because of all the inconsistencies."

Mike Coley, the RFU marketing manager, welcomed the players' decision to consult the union before appointing another agent. No agreement had been signed by the RFU with WHJ Promotions, the union having accepted them in principle largely because of the obligation the players.

Bob Willis, the former England cricket captain, said yesterday's decision was "amiable but inevitable. The RFU was clearly not happy in October and we have been trying to interpret its stance since then."

"The players decided that the union was not going to give ground and they felt it was frustrating for them during their preparations for rugby internationals. Frustration was the last thing we wanted and the company has been having conversations with the players over a period of time as the situation basically reached an impasse."

Wrexham's pitch is snow-covered on eve of international

By CLIVE WHITE

JACK Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, accused the Football Association of Wales yesterday of being "short-sighted" in not taking up an offer from Everton to play tonight's international match between the countries at Goodison Park instead of the Racecourse Ground.

Wrexham's pitch is under two inches of snow and Charlton feels more inclined to adhere to the view of the weatherman, who forecast more cold weather, than that of Joe Worrall, the Warrington referee, who is confident that the game will go ahead.

"Apparently, there is very cold weather coming across from Russia," Charlton said. "So we could find ourselves on a ground which is frozen solid. I would have thought it would have made sense to play at Goodison. It's a bit short-sighted not to. What with it being a friendly, it is not as if they need home advantage."

Wrexham's match last Saturday was postponed because of the weather, whereas Everton were able to go ahead because of their under-soil heating.

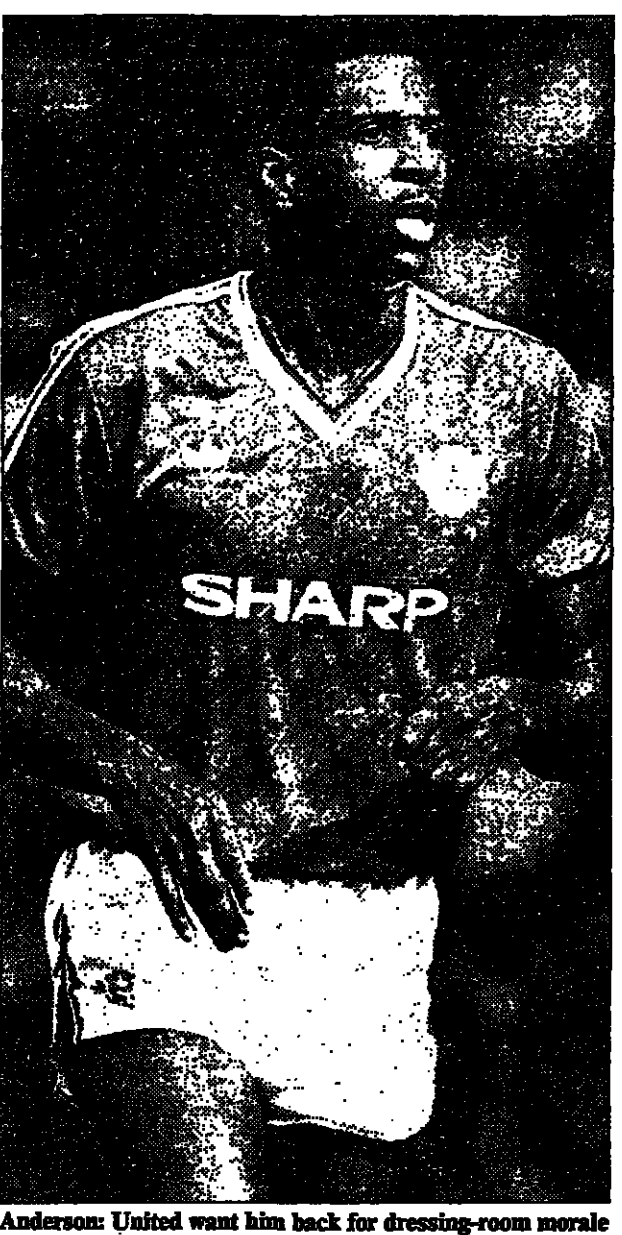
But Worrall said that the pitch, apart from an area in one goalmouth, was soft beneath the snow, which he proposed they leave on as insulation until as late as possible. Peter Shreeves, the Welsh assistant manager, said that their priority was to play the match on home soil.

There was a time when the Welsh would have worn skates, if necessary, to play at the Racecourse. They felt unbeatable there, and indeed they were during Mike England's eight-year reign as manager. The myth was exploded by defeats by Sweden, the Netherlands, and besides, Terry Yorath, the new manager, was more keen that they found a bigger stage which they could call home, ideally the Arms Park.

But the Racecourse has been home from home for Ian Rush, the first division's leading goalscorer, who has scored eight of his 18 international goals there. While the game gives Rush and Dean Saunders an opportunity to forge a better understanding still in attack, they will be without the support of Mark Hughes, withdrawn because of injury.

Clayton Blackmore, his Manchester United colleague, who has also been withdrawn for the same reason, is replaced by Gareth Hall, of Chelsea, although Yorath pointed out that it was never his intention to play Blackmore, since he must do without the player possibly for the rest of the European championship qualifying programme due to suspension. Consequently, Hall, a solid if unspectacular performer, has the opportunity to make the right back position his own.

For the Irish, Bernie Slaven, in the absence of John Aldridge, is given the chance to repeat his feat in last year's international between the two teams when he scored the only goal of the game at Lansdowne Road.



Anderson: United want him back for dressing-room morale

Anderson returns for a tonic

By MARTIN SEARBY

VIV Anderson, the full back who was allowed to join Sheffield Wednesday on a free transfer, will return to his former club, Manchester United, for its third-round tie in the European Cup Winners' Cup against Montpellier, of France.

Anderson's role, however, will be confined to that of boosting morale in the dressing-room before the first leg at Old Trafford and he will travel with the Manchester squad for the second leg in the south west of France on March 19.

The extraordinary arrangements were made when Alex Ferguson, the United manager, negotiated Anderson's transfer with Ron Atkinson, his opposite number at Middlesbrough. "He is such an influential character that Alex specifically asked if we could continue to travel with Manchester United in Europe and I said Alex that if the fixtures didn't clash with any of ours I would be happy to oblige him," Atkinson said.

"It's a measure of Viv's standing in the game. He is a natural leader who has won every honour bar the FA Cup, knows about winning and Alex appreciates that. Players like Viv help you hold your nerve before a big match and he can have a major effect on players' minds off the field. I can see why Alex wants him after just five games for us."

Anderson, who played in the first round tie against Peci Munkacs missed the game against Wrexham and played in only two other matches for United before his move.

Lagisquet faces long absence

FOLLOWING his injury when scoring a try against Ireland at the weekend, the French wing, Patrice Lagisquet, is likely to miss the rest of the five nations' championship (Chris Thau writes). Yesterday he had a cartilage removed from his knee in a Libourne hospital.

"Contrary to what people believe I wasn't hurt while I was diving over," Lagisquet said. "I was hit in a tackle when I was just about to launch myself towards the Irish line. I felt a crack in my knee but I did not feel any pain. I just sprinted and squeezed through two defenders closing in and I eventually scored."

Lagisquet will not be in the Ireland team to meet Wales at the Arms Park, Cardiff, on Saturday night (George Armitage writes). Crossan was not considered by the selectors last night when they met to choose the team which will be announced today.

Out of action since breaking a small bone in his right leg on November 24 until last Saturday week, when he played against St Mary's College. But he played on Monday night against Portadown and complained afterwards that he experienced twinges of pain.

It had looked as if Crossan would replace Hooks on the left wing and Staples, the London Irish full back, would take over from Murphy. But the selectors will have to think again.

Mooney seals deal with Sunderland

BRIAN Mooney, the Preston winger, has sealed a £225,000 move to Sunderland. The Republic of Ireland B international will play against Wimbledon at Roker Park on Saturday.

MANCHESTER: Bernard Walsie will remain as chairman of Manchester, the French champions (AFP reports). Jean-Pierre Papin, the club captain, said the players would lift their threat of a strike.

The Rugby Football Union has turned down Wimbledon's request to play at Twickenham.

Alan Randall, the Hendon manager, has resigned from the Vauxhall League club for "personal reasons".

Strachan back for Scotland

By RODDY FORSYTH

"McCoist was not picked out of sentiment," Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, said. "We have looked at him closely and he is fit and very alert and bright. It also goes without saying that he is desperate to play for Scotland, especially with the really critical European championship qualifying match with Bulgaria coming up next month."

"I am bound to say, however, that if this had been a European championship qualifier then I think we would have had second thoughts. Inevitably, we will have to look closely at his stamina but, if he drops, we will carry him off."

McCoist will begin the match alongside Robert Fleck, who has been watched in recent weeks

both by Roxburgh and his assistant, Craig Brown. According to Roxburgh, the Norwich City forward is "electric". It is Roxburgh's intention to deploy Gordon Durie at some stage of the match and there is even the possibility, although a remote one, that all three forwards will be on the field at the same time.

The reappearance of Gordon Strachan in the midfield means that his Leeds United teammates, Gary McAllister, Jon Smith and Steve Wilkes, of Forest, and Jermaine Anderson, of Luton, did not produce any concrete results.

Fox's dismay at the absence of an FA representative was undisguised. "It was upsetting because Graham Kelly was

Players agents are given hearing by League chief

By PETER BALL

present when we made the decision to invite representatives of the agents," Fox said. "And one of them was Jon Smith, who has considerable involvement with the FA."

The sting in the final sentence was apparent. Kelly's statement that he would not cross the road to talk to agents raising a few eyebrows at league headquarters.

But a three and a half hour meeting between Bill Fox, the president of the Football League, and Eric Hall, Jon Smith and Steve Wilkes, of Forest, and Jermaine Anderson, of Luton, did not produce any concrete results.

Fox's dismay at the absence of an FA representative was undisguised. "It was upsetting because Graham Kelly was

present when we made the decision to invite representatives of the agents," Fox said. "And one of them was Jon Smith, who has considerable involvement with the FA."

The sting in the final sentence was apparent. Kelly's statement that he would not cross the road to talk to agents raising a few eyebrows at league headquarters.

But a three and a half hour meeting between Bill Fox, the president of the Football League, and Eric Hall, Jon Smith and Steve Wilkes, of Forest, and Jermaine Anderson, of Luton, did not produce any concrete results.

Fox's dismay at the absence of an FA representative was undisguised. "It was upsetting because Graham Kelly was

Australian tour dates

THE Australian Rugby Union (ARU) has confirmed its international arrangements for the summer (David Hands writes). They will play Wales and England in July.

Only minor adjustments have been made to the itineraries originally offered the English and Welsh unions, primarily to ensure a certain amount of missionary work. Wales, for example, will play against Queensland state of origin on July 17, and England's match with the Emerging Australians on July 23 will be at Gosford, north of Sydney.

The war in the Gulf has led

the organisers of the World Cup to defer the last date for deposits from overseas supporters intending to travel to Britain. The closing date, originally February 1, will now be established in mid-March.

TOUR ITINERARIES: England: July 7 v New South Wales (Sydney); 10 v Victorian Presidents (Melbourne); 14 v Queensland (Brisbane); 18 v Lancashire (Nottingham); 22 v Emerging Australia (Gosford); 26 v Australia (Sydney); Wales: June 30 v Western Australia (Perth); July 7 v Queensland (Brisbane); 14 v New South Wales (Sydney); 17 v Queensland state of origin (Rockhampton); 21 v Australia (Brisbane); Additional fixtures: August 6 Australia v New Zealand (Wellington); 13 Australia v New Zealand (Sydney); 20 New Zealand v Australia (Auckland).

Trueman stands up to be counted at meeting

By MARTIN SEARBY

FRED Trueman, Yorkshire's most famous fast bowler, will end a self-imposed exile later this month by attending the club's annual general meeting in nine years.

Trueman, who celebrates his sixtieth birthday today, will support resolutions that urge the county to build a new headquarters away from Headingley, and to cut the size of the committee from 23 to 12. Brian Walsh, the chairman, has recommended members should reject both items.

"I sit here with tears in my eyes watching this great county go downhill," Trueman said.

"I proposed the committee should be cut ten years ago but it was rejected because some were frightened the wrong people would take control. I insisted my opposition to the new lease at Headingley was recorded in

1982 because I couldn't see Yorkshire benefiting from a situation where the landlords were living in the front rooms of the county ground, a life member, has not attended any county functions since he lost his Craven district seat on the committee during the Boycott revolution in the winter of 1983.

There was support for Trueman from Ken Harvey, a Leeds member, who said the committee should not have tried to influence postal voters.

"They gave an undertaking not to use this tactic four years ago," Sir Lawrence Byford, the former chief constable of Lincolnshire, will be made the new Yorkshire president at the annual meeting. The club is seeking a fixed three-year term of office for the president. A resolution will also propose that a committee representative speaking out of turn to the media should face suspension.

CRICKET

BASKETBALL			
CARLISLE LEAGUE First division			
Kingston	10	10	28
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3
Leicester	10	12	3

FOOTBALL

BARCLAYS LEAGUE Third division			
Cardiff City	10	10	28
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3

GOLF

LAKE WORTH, Florida (Clubhouse scores)			
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140
Charles	70	70	140

SQUASH RACKETS

Opie asserts authority over British champion			
Opie	10	10	28
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3
Opie	10	12	3

A fighting MacLagan

MILES MacLagan, Britain's under-16 hardcourt and grasscourt tennis champion, lost 7-5, 6-2 to Timmy Nyhup, of Sweden, at No. 204, in the second round of the LTA Challenger in Telford yesterday.

By winning his first-round match on his ATP tour debut, MacLagan has gained five computer points and probable ranking in the mid-700s.

SKING: Claude Pierrat, a French cross-country skier, has been suspended for two years after failing a drugs test.

JUDO: Japanese judokas will be missing from the annual Paris tournament next weekend for the first time since its inception in 1971 because of Gulf war fears.

OLYMPIC GAMES: Tickets for next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona went on sale on Monday.

DRUGS IN SPORT: The International Olympic Committee has scrapped plans to set up mobile drug-testing laboratories because of possible legal complications.

CRICKET: Derbyshire County Cricket Club has been granted a new 125-year lease by the City Council and received approval for a £10 million development plan.

HOCKEY: The appeals committee of the Hockey Association rejected the plea of Bristol that their second-division match in the Pondsweater National League against Harrogate should be replayed because a umpire was no longer on the panel.

RAIDMONTON: The English national championships have been saved by a last-minute sponsor, Hi-Tec.

IN BRIEF

Straw on the pitch

WITH a long-range weather forecast of severe frost threatening this weekend's Silk Cut Challenge Cup first-round ties, several clubs are already making contingency plans (Keith Mackin writes).

The top tie of the round is Castledore's match with the holders, Wigan, and Castledore are laying tarpaulins topped with straw on the Wieldon Road ground.

Swinton, second division

promotion candidates, who entertain St Helens, of the first division, have approached Bolton Wanderers football club for permission to move the tie to the central-heated Burnden Park ground. Swinton have previously played matches at Burnden Park.

Rochdale Hornets have made an approach to Leigh for John Woodcock, the international back who has walked out on the Hilltop Park club. Leigh say the offer is "derisory".

RUGBY LEAGUE

SHOOTING			
NRA of America	10	10	28
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3
NRA of America	10	12	3

HOCKEY

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES			
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0
1. Royal Navy	0	0	0

ICE HOCKEY

HENDERSON LEAGUE First division			
Cardiff City	10	10	28
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES			
Cardiff City	10	10	28
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3
Cardiff City	10	12	3

Payton stands down

THE London Monarchs, who earlier this week gained a coach, when they appointed Larry Kennan, have lost their president (Richard Wetherill writes). Bob Payton, an American who has lived in London for 17 years, was to have been the figurehead around which the World League of American Football (WLAF) based its activities in Britain. But he has resigned after disagreements with Mike Lynn, the WLAF president, at the Super Bowl.

Payton's ideas on how to bring a piece of Americana to this country were at odds with Lynn's. "I don't think it ought to be marketed like soccer," Payton said yesterday.

Although his involvement is officially at an end, Payton does not rule out a return. "I'm full of ideas," he said, "and they're bound to want some of them."

Billy Hicks, the club's general manager, said he was "disappointed at Bob's timing."

Each sport would have to meet the criterion of a united country.

D 2 ★★★★★